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Adelaide Fired up for second side



NSL awards inside

Chipperfield gives Nick T another reason to smile

By Aidan Ormond

As C7's Greg Blake correctly predicted last week, Adelaide is planning a return to its status as a two-NSL side city. New franchise Adelaide Fire was unveiled yesterday in the City of Churches - locals praying Fire will be a successful, mainstream team for all South Australians, particularly after the off-field debacle associated with Adelaide City.

The launch, at a Fire Station in Adelaide, had been shrouded in mystery. What we do know is that the South Australian state federation - desperate to assist in the return to a two-team city and to erase the PR problems Adelaide City has caused - has assisted Fire. However if the new club gets the green light the federation will have nothing to do with its running.

Backers of the club are believed to have \$1.5 million ready with a membership drive designed to entice a further \$1.5 million in sponsorship. The club will not have any links with any one community but will be for all South Australians.

A subscription of \$225 will guarantee inaugural membership of the Fire and a seat at games at Hindmarsh. "We aim to provide quality entertainment for the entire family," said Kym Weir, a spokesperson for the club's working party.

He also said that, pending the launch of the new club, membership fees will be held in trust under the supervision of accountancy firm Ernst and Young and refunded if the launch and national

licence application is not successful.

"Over the next two weeks we will appoint a football committee and we will continue with our push for investment and sponsorship," he added.

Locally-based South Australian players are expected to be targeted, which, presumably means the ranks at Adelaide City will be further decimated after the losses of Costanzo, Mori and Tobin (plus Brain is reportedly unhappy.)

The home ground will be Hindmarsh Stadium. It is envisaged that the side will play in the state colours of red, gold and blue.

It is also understood that the state federation has written to every English and Scottish Premier League club about a possible ownership scenario, but, as one official told me, "some have shown interest but that's all at this stage."

Adelaide Fire coaching appointments can only be speculated on, with former City coach John Perin, plus Adrian Santrac, Alby Kidd and Joe Mullen all possibilities.

"We want all South Australians to help us ignite the Fire," concluded Weir in a press statement.

So, a 17-team NSL for 2000/1? Fire will hope that Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella will be kind to those in his home state.

Meanwhile Adelaide City Force continues to bumble along. President Bob D'ottavi will be in Italy when there is a special general meeting on July 2.

A no-confidence vote is expected to be issued by the members to the club's board.

FREE: Wolves awards colour liftout
Plus: Perth the week after GF 2000,
NSL transfer news, we wrap up the 'No Way Jose' Paraguay tour, all the state news and the Matildas post Pacific Cup.

Why
Bozza hates
Guido Hatzsis!
Page 2

Soccer Central

Perth to strengthen its hold as Oz Soccer capital

By Brett Kluczniak

It seems certain that Perth Glory will have a WA rival in the NSL within a few years. General manager Stefan Kamasz confirmed that the league was considering two bids for a second licence in Perth.

This comes as no surprise to Glory co-owner Paul Afkos, who founded the club in partnership with Nick Tana in 1996.

And while he backs the idea that WA could support a second franchise, Afkos warned against introducing it so soon after Glory's formation. "I think while Soccer Australia witnessed over the last fortnight the success that soccer has in Western Australia, I believe it is inevitable a second team will come to WA," he said.

"I would say not quite at the moment, but when the new stadium is finished would be good timing if Soccer Australia is to make a decision."

"At the moment I would say no, in about three years time I would say Soccer Australia will make that decision because the success of soccer has been pushed from WA, there's no doubt."

Speaking on Perth radio, Kamasz said that Glory had agreed to a five year exclusivity deal upon entering the com-

petition and that that deal expires in 2001. "Next year will be the final year in which the Glory has this exclusivity," he said.

"The organisations that are seeking to become involved are looking to be involved from the year 2001. That's not out of the question."

"I wouldn't say it's inevitable at this stage but down the track I think it's likely that we get a second team in Perth."

"Glory fans have demonstrated that there is a need for quality soccer over there and I'm sure that with a new stadium being built that there would be some sort of pressure put on Soccer Australia to make sure we get more games over there."

Kamasz said that consideration would be given to any impact a second team might have on Glory before accepting any bid. "I think before we determine whether they should be there, regardless of the merits of what they have put up to us, we need to make sure that the impact that it has on Perth Glory is not such that it's going to create problems for Glory themselves," he said.

"So we need to undertake an impact study on a second licence in WA and that's the important thing to do in the first instance."



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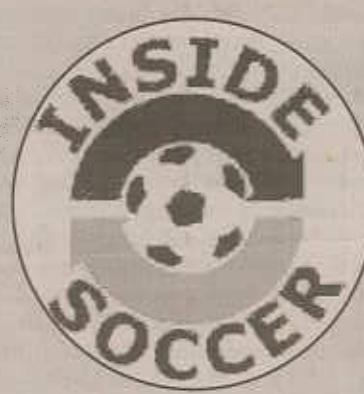
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Do not talk over me! Bosnich upset with Guido Hatzsis

One person clearly not a fan of M&M comedian Guido Hatzsis is Socceroo keeper Mark Bosnich, writes Aidan Ormond.

At the recent celebrity shootout at the Melbourne Soccer Expo, the comedian called Bosnich - in jest and in character - a "poofter" and other derogatory words.

The joke was understood by the audience but not by the Aussie keeper (right), who took great offence to it.

It is believed that Bosnich threw a hissy fit about the comedian's presence to his minders. Reports suggest the Socceroo keeper was also unhappy with having to do an interview over the microphone with C7's Paul Wade, that he turned up late and was followed to his hotel by irate parents of children.

One of Hatzsis' favourite sayings is "don't talk over me my friend" in a thick Greek-Australia accent.



to do that."

Bosnich claims he is the safest pair of hands at Old Trafford despite the arrival of French international Fabien Barthez. "The only thing that has upset me among all the criticism is that I've sometimes been put in the same category as Massimo (Taibi) and Raymond (van der Gouw). I don't like to be put in the same boat."

"I haven't dropped the clangers they have."

"I've played in 23 games in the Premiership and conceded 21 goals. Seven games in the Champions League and conceded six."

"I've also got 13 clean sheets. The stats don't lie and neither do my performances."

"Peter Schmeichel was a hero of mine. I'm trying to surpass him and if I'm given the chance in the time that I'm here, I believe I can do it," said Bosnich.

Martin O'Neill will sacrifice player of the year Mark Viduka next week as he intensifies his quest to bring Leicester lieutenant Neil Lennon to Celtic, reports from Europe suggest. Long-term suitors Leeds United are finally expected to land Australian striker Viduka after O'Neill consented to a £7million deal.

The new boss approved the sale of the SPL's top scorer in order to fund the purchase of Northern Ireland international midfielder Lennon.

PM Howard is now a Wollongong Wolves fan!

By Aidan Ormond

To complement post-Grand Final celebrations PM John Howard made a first time visit to an NSL awards night. He spoke in glowing terms about not only Australian Soccer but the Perth Grand Final just five days prior.

"In winning that remarkably exciting and intense game," Howard said, "Wollongong achieved something that I think is a first for that district of Wollongong, and that is to produce a team which won a national competition in a nationally organised sport in Australia. That is a tremendous first and fillip for the Wollongong district and for Australia."

He went on to say that the future of the game in this country is bright. "The

strides the game has made and the way it has reached into areas of Australia over the last few years has been quite remarkable."

"The great thing about soccer is the way it can galvanise interest and commitment of parents and kids from an early age and the way it reaches into every part of the Australian community in a cross-sectional way that no other football code has the capacity to do."

Despite mis-pronouncing Basil Scarsella's name it was a boost to Soccer Australia to have a sitting PM at our awards. And he didn't even mention the GST!

*With thanks to Ted Simmons of AAP.

Promoters O Fans O

Kevin Christopher sums up the Paraguay tour of Australia

Soccer is often accused of shooting itself in the foot, and many will point to this latest three-match international series as a classic case of blowing your toes off.

The promoters built their advertising campaign around the big names, who inevitably pulled out one by one, and the visitors arrived with a squad which was creatively described as experimental, sending just three players who contested the Copa America last year.

Indeed, had Chilavert not arrived and waffled on about drugs in sport, the opening match would barely have rated a mention at all.

True, the only world star of Paraguayan football came and played (almost) all three games, but by the end of the series the public were beginning to wish he'd stayed home.

While he displayed some fine goal-keeping traits between the posts, his 'captain's prerogative' to dispute referee's decisions was stretched to farcical limits.

Unfortunately it took until injury time in game three for Chilavert to be put where he belonged, but by then the damage had been done. Put bluntly, he was a pest and if this is how South Americans are allowed to carry on then we may be in for a very interesting World Cup play-off in November next year.

In a wider context, the series was always going to have trouble competing for media space and attention, with the NSL grand final and Euro 2000 dominating the sports press - and by extension, the conversation amongst the fans.

But wait, this is the (LG) Socceroos isn't it? Isn't this the team we've always wanted to see live in the flesh, to collectively embrace and celebrate the fact that we have dozens of Euroroos earning serious numbers in some of the world's toughest leagues?

Once again, it proved that the fans aren't idiots any more, refusing to cough up ridiculous amounts of dosh for top notch tickets, while the chances of seeing anything resembling the REAL Socceroo first eleven were, well, remote at best.

At seems pointless harping on about the continued absence of the big guns in the national team, suffice to say some had genuine injury concerns and some didn't. Paul Okon certainly didn't mince his words when questioned on Kewell's whereabouts, and there is an increasing percentage of fans who share the skipper's feelings.

The reality however, is that this series was all about preparation for the Oceania Cup, and a showdown with the Kiwis for the possible right to strut the world stage. Farina needed to make it clear early in the piece that this was the last chance for a number of fringe players.

Unfortunately, this didn't happen. Frank dudged his former home town by changing the entire starting line-up for game two, and Queenslanders responded accordingly, with around 4,000 turning up including many eager to vent their feelings to anyone with a microphone.

True, in naming a twenty-six man squad for the series, Farina had just about covered all the bases. He knew he must reduce the squad to twenty in time for the Oceania Cup, and was likely to be faced with the regulation withdrawals and injuries generally encountered in such circumstances.

It was hoped that most of the surprise inclusions would be restricted to cameo roles, with the overseas based players forming the basis of the starting eleven. The whole idea of this three-match series should have been to give the first choice eleven (or as close as possible to it) the value of three matches together in a week. To change the side totally sends the wrong signal to too many players.

The value of the Socceroos shirt is in



Goose of the week goes to Jose Luis Chilavert, who else?

danger of being devalued in the eyes of the average supporter, and the notion of having to be the best, or sweat blood for your country, has long since disappeared in this country. It seems these days you can just turn up for your country when you feel like it.

And the administrators wonder why they have lost the public's confidence.

Socceroos' Oceania Nations Cup squad

NAME	POSITION	CLUB
BOLTON	Clint	Goalkeeper
KALAC	Zeljko	Roda JC (Holland)
COLOSIMO	Simon	Defender
HORVAT	Steve	Defender
LAYBUTT	Stephen	Defender
LAZARIDIS	Stan	Defender
MURPHY	Shaun	Defender
MUSCAT	Kevin	Defender
POPOVIC	Tony	Defender
TIATTO	Danny	Defender
CORICA	Steve	Midfielder
EMERTON	Brett	Midfielder
FOSTER	Craig	Midfielder
OKON	Paul	Midfielder
VIDMAR	Aurelio	Midfielder
AGOSTINO	Paul	Striker
CARDOZO	Pablo	Striker
CHIPPERFIELD	Scott	Striker
ZANE	Clayton	Striker
ZDRILIC	David	Striker

GROUP A:

- 19-06-00 18:00 Australia vs. Cook Islands (played after we have gone to press).
- 21-06-00 18:00 Solomon Islands vs. Cook Islands
- 23-06-00 18:00 Solomon Islands vs. Australia

GROUP B:

- 19-06-00 20:30 New Zealand vs. Tahiti
- 21-06-00 20:30 New Zealand vs. Vanuatu
- 23-06-00 20:30 Tahiti vs. Vanuatu

SEMIFINALS

- 25-06-00 16:00 Winner Group 1 vs. 2nd Group 2
- 25-06-00 18:30 Winner Group 2 vs. 2nd Group 1

FINAL

- 28-06-00 20:00 W7 vs. W8

**The
'Sun, Sand
and Soccer'
tour 2000**

Tana and Afkos in public spat

By Brett Klucznik

What should have been a sweet moment for WA junior soccer turned sour last Thursday as an argument broke out between Perth Glory co-owners Paul Afkos and Nick Tana during the press conference to announce a new youth initiative.

After announcing the signing of Damian Mori, Tana and Junior Soccer Association of WA president, Bill Oddy, revealed details of an initial three-year scheme to develop a youth summer development league which they hope to have up and running by October.

The league will consist of eight regionally-based teams of 16 players drawn initially from the under-14 and under-16 ages groups.

The scheme was met with instant criticisms from Soccer Administration of WA president Afkos - also Glory's deputy chairman - who said he did not expect the league to go ahead and expected there to be a backlash from the local soccer community. "First and foremost they have not discussed any of the items with S.A.W.A.," Afkos said.

"Any development of the game has got to be done collectively with the stakeholders, which include Soccer West Coast (the professional body), W.A.A.S.S.A. (amateur body) and affiliates."

Tana, who plans to underwrite the league to the tune of \$100,000 a year, said he had discussed the idea private-

ly with a number of stakeholders.

He said the competition would allow the cream of Perth's teenage players to develop their skills during the summer off-season.

Tana was disappointed with the negative reaction but said it would not prevent the program from going ahead. "This program has only one objective and that's to improve the standard of young players."

Soccer West Coast general manager Paul Tombides also expressed concerns over the league, saying that children who played soccer throughout the year could suffer burn-out and fade away from the game.

Tana's relationship with his board - and especially Afkos - has been strained for some time now and came to a head when Tana opted not to renew coach Bernd Stange's contract in March.

Afkos rallied public support to retain the popular German, and although the decision was reversed by Tana after public outcry, the tensions remain. "There is no secret or surprise that I have some strained relations in terms of my board," Tana said when revealing details of the planned youth league.

"I wanted this (the league) to stay separate until such time that these relations are resolved."



GREG BLAKE

C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR

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South Melbourne's belated decision to go 'in-house' with its coaching staff for season 2000/2001 is as much a legacy of the influence of out-going dual-premiership boss, Ange Postecoglou, as anything else.

Mike Petersen, most recently in charge of Victorian Premier League outfit St Albans, was announced as senior coach late last week.

And Postecoglou, the newest national coaching team member, is thrilled that his former club has gone with Petersen, a former Socceroo, South Melbourne teammate and coaching assistant, as head coach at Lakeside for the new campaign.

During his tenure as senior boss, Postecoglou made a point of trying to instill a sense of pride in club history amongst his players and he believes the Petersen appointment will be consistent with that very philosophy.

"Definitely (it's a good appointment)," said Postecoglou.

"I was a big supporter of his to get the job - I'm wrapped - and I'm glad the club has seen fit to go down that line."

Petersen couldn't hide his delight at landing the position.

"I've hardly slept at all," he said.

"Just to be given the chance to coach a club like South Melbourne is a

wonderful opportunity."

Petersen played 171 NSL games for South Melbourne, including the 1990/91 grand final triumph over the Melbourne Knights.

South Melbourne has scored a second recruiting coup for 2000/2001 with former champion Socceroo goalkeeper, Jeff Oliver, having been lured Lakeside from Carlton to head up the club's ambitious new youth soccer academy.

According to South Melbourne GM, Damian Phillips, the establishment of an academy is part of a wider plan to shore up the club's future for the long haul.

"Everything that is happening at the moment is very exciting for the club, right across the board," he said.

"The news of the coaching appointment and the establishment of the academy has bolstered the spirits around the place."

"Hopefully what we're doing now is setting everything in place for South Melbourne to remain a force in the NSL for many years to come."

South Melbourne's decision on the senior post at Lakeside suggests that championship-winning coach, Nick Theodorakopoulos, will stay put on the south coast for next season.

The successful Wollongong boss, prematurely announced as South's new man in the Melbourne press early last week, is hoping that his current club will provide enough of the folding stuff to buy two of the four players on his personal "wish list" for the championship follow-up campaign.

Theodorakopoulos is also keen to retain as much talent on his current roster as possible.

"I want to keep the vast majority of the team that got us to the grand final; I've never come across such a magical group of players," he said.

I've little doubt that South Melbourne had targeted the Wollongong supremo as the man to replace Postecoglou, but the Victorian club revised its choice after Theodorakopoulos put his career decision-making on hold until after his current club's finals campaign.

Heaven help us, but the world must be spinning backwards. Alex Tobin is leaving Adelaide City for Parramatta Power, with the 34-year old former Socceroo skipper having put pen to paper with the second year Sydney club last week.

Tobin signed a two-year deal with Power after falling out last month with his South Australian outfit of nearly two decades, when he was sacked as the club's junior development officer.

End of story? Not on your nelly.

Following a season in which the Adelaide-based club has become a magnet for adverse pub-



licity, how about the lack of class shown by Adelaide City supremo, Bob D'Ottavi, in publicly smearing Tobin by saying he doubted the 346-game veteran had the fitness to play out an 18th NSL campaign.

Might as well add how delighted he was when Bambi's mum copped a bullet.

After playing on three championship-winning teams for the Adelaide club, how about just letting the big bloke go with some grace and dignity.

There's no doubt that there was a huge groundswell of neutral support for Wollongong going into the biggest game of the season.

It's not that Perth Glory were friendless or particularly unpopular - far from it, in fact - but the classic combination of Wollongong's pronounced underdog status and the Wolves' propensity for sometimes reckless attacking football gave the south coast team a huge edge amongst the non-aligned NSL supporters around the country.

'Gong boss, Nick Theodorakopoulos (above), believes his team did its bit to win over fans during the season by offering value for money.

"I think definitely, yeah, the way we played probably did win over some neutral supporters," he said.

"And that the boys were rewarded with that (grand final victory) is great.

"The players have been just terrific - they deserve every accolade they get."

As the likes of Marconi, Carlton and Olympic bit the dust over the course of the play-offs, I was a little surprised at the amount of e-mails I received from supporters of those clubs declaring their support for the Wolves.

The general tone of the comments further validated Wollongong's cavalier approach to its footy this season, with the otherwise impartial fans almost universally applauding the efforts of a team which reeled off an all-time NSL record of 78 goals during the championship campaign.

The one to best sum it up came from an Olympic supporter whom I'm sure would not like me to name-drop under the circumstances, who e-mailed me saying that he "desperately hopes Wollongong wins it this year."

"Carlton and Perth can #@\$! up a rope for all I care", he added.

*More GF 2000 and Blakey on page 11

Mullet Amulet: the new fashion in football!

One of the great stories of the 1999/2000 Grand Final was that of Wollongong's David Cervinski, or the 'Mullet Amulet', as he has been dubbed by 'IS' editor and creative genius, Aidan Ormond.

Crook enough to put mere mortals in hospital for most of pre-grand final week, the big 'Shovel' actually kitted up and bravely flew the flag in the big show only to play miserably - albeit, understandably under the circumstances - and then check out of the game at half time, when all looked lost.

Anyone fooled by the bogus toughie's harsh exterior would now be revising their opinion, with the video check clearly showing Cervinski openly sobbing tears of joy as THAT comeback culminated in the miracle Wolves pulling off an improbable national title win.

Which makes a mockery of the big baby's comments to me a matter of weeks ago, just prior to Wollongong heading into the play-offs (yes David, I keep all the cassette tapes), when he suggested he was impervious to the emotion of the occasion.

"It (playing in the finals) is obviously a bit of a thrill for most of the blokes around the club but it's not the same for me," he declared.

"There's nothing like the excitement you get from winning your first grand final and I've played in a couple now."

"I mean, I'm excited for the other guys but I've been there before and to me it's more a case of trying to be a team leader and get the job done."

Yeah, right.

Truth is, Cervinski is one of the true unsung heroes of the NSL.

Wollongong insiders concede that his contribution in turning the Wolves from outsiders into champions this season has been invaluable.

His third title win from a record-equaling five grand finals elevates him into elite company, alongside such NSL greats as Fausto De Amicis, Andrew Marth, Joe Mullen, Serg Melta and Alex Tobin. And



Dave Cervinski: the mullet amulet lets his feet do the talkin'.

even rate a mention in any of the official NSL press releases (now that's bizarre).

But it is worth noting that in Chipperfield's two best NSL seasons the Wolves have been contenders, with Wollongong not far off the mark when he stamped his mark in 1997/98 and again this season, when he played an integral role as one quarter of the fearsome 58-goal foursome alongside Esala Masi, Stuart Young and Saso Petrovski.

As an ardent subscriber to the theory that you're only in extra good territory if you can produce when it counts for the most, I'd now rate Chipperfield in amongst the top 10 percent of players currently going around in the NSL.

And a special mention too to evergreen Robbie Stanton, who was the only player to start in all of Wollongong's marathon season of 38 games this season.

The former Sydney United and Marconi champ is another who barely rates a mention, but he's one fellas who always plays the game with foxhole intensity.

As for Ben Blake - his rookie season sullied by being left out of Wollongong's grand final squad altogether - I reckon this guy is a black book special for future success.

It's in the bloodlines.



Dances with Wolves! Champs take major NSL Gong

By Aidan Ormond at the NSL awards 2000

It was late, real late, but Wolves GM Graeme Haney, Dino Mennillo and club captain Matt Horsley, with lady friends in tow, were still shaking their booty on the ANA hotel's dancefloor. Barely eight hours later they were to be the stars of a tickertape parade in the heart of Wollongong on Saturday, but for these and the other Wolves guests, it was an awards night to savour. This was a night to party for Wollongong, and for Australian soccer to bask in the reflected glory of the most talked about finale in domestic history.

Homegrown Wollongong product Scott Chipperfield was given the highest accolade: voted by his peers as players' player of the year. Chipperfield, who accepted his award via a pre-recorded video, thanked all those around him and especially his coach Nick Theodorakopoulos who "has taught me so much this year." Chipperfield was in Tahiti with the current Socceroos campaign.

The Wolves side was also honoured for winning 'that Grand Final'. Supercoach Theodorakopoulos (we can call him that now) gave a touching speech, describing how the win had galvanised the Illawarra. He also noted that he is from the same school as the Prime Minister John Howard - who made the official presentation. The Wolves coach then asked some probing GST questions regarding prize money. It got the biggest laugh of the night.

Skipper Matt Horsley told how he had been saying the same things since that frenetic June 11 encounter in Perth. "I've played ten years for this," he said. "I keep saying, I thought I had lost the game when I missed the penalty, so to Les (Pogliacomi), thanks and I'm buying the drinks! ... I am so proud to lead this team, it means so much to me."

On a night when players' media training - or maybe just their natural personalities - shone, Stuart Young's brief

speech was one of the best. The likeable Englishman said if there was more beer to flow "then it will be a night of nights!" He also spoke of the honour he felt at being part of such a special Grand Final, and to have scored so many goals for Wolves.

Wollongong was lauded for their record breaking feat of scoring more goals than any side in the NSL, eclipsing Sydney City's record set in the 1980s.

Highest goal scorer for the season, Damian Mori, was praised by presenter John Kosmina for his consistency. The new Glory signing was gracious in his acceptance speech.

It was a great night for regional soccer with Newcastle Breakers winning the fair play award. Coach Lee Sterrey accepted it.

There were live crosses throughout the evening to Perth, where Glory was having its annual night. Nick Tana spoke as did coach Bernd Stange, who accepted the somewhat surprising award win for coach of the year (no disrespect to Stange but if Nick T was not a worthy winner, then I'm Rudi Gutendorf). Obviously this was voted on before the Grand Final, clearly an anomaly that has to be looked at for next year.

Bobby Catlin won the keeper of the year award, beating out quality opposition from Jason Petkovic. The big man said he was thankful to his coach Lee Sterrey for giving him a chance to play after he left Marconi with his career seemingly at the crossroads.

In the U/21 award, Ivan Ergic, surely the hottest property in Australia right now, won it with club representative Paul Afkos accepting on his behalf.

The articulate Sydney Olympic attacking midfielder Anthony Doumanis won best player for NYL North and Boris Ovcin for NYL South. Both players' acceptance speeches were excellent, particularly Doumanis'. He was magnanimous about his dropping from last year's



Wolves players with their now famous cigar routine

successful Joeys World Cup campaign, adding that it had made him a better player. This kid is a class act on and off the field and has the potential to be a fine ambassador for the game wherever he plays.

The Olyroos and their Olympic dreams were also mentioned on the night by host Tracey Holmes - who did her usual excellent job - yet our national women's team, the Matildas, weren't mentioned. Given they have a week off from training, it would have been nice to have seen one involved with the night. They did pull over 10,000 fans just two weeks prior, evidence of their growing popularity.

Other special guests on the night included C7's Socceroo Paul Wade and legend Craig Johnston. C7 also provided excellent highlights packages to go with the various award categories.

*Pictured from L to R: Robbie Slater and Remo Nogarotto, Manny Gotis and Andy Harper and the Wolves players.

Warren Medal Player of the Year:

Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong)
U21 Player: Ivan Ergic (Perth).
Coach: Bernd Stange (Perth).
Goalkeeper: Bob Catlin (Newcastle).
Fair Play: Newcastle.
Referee: Eddie Lannie (WA).
Assistant Referee: Matthew Cream (SA).
Youth League Northern: Anthony Doumanis
(Sydney Olympic) Southern: Boris Ovcin
(South Melbourne).
Special Achievement and Top Scorer:
Damian Mori (Adelaide).

As usual the sartorial Eddie Krnecic stole the show with a statement-making grey overcoat that revealed the now standard 'gangster' look (white tie, black shirt). Krnecic, who is restyling his Marconi Stallions, did not however bring his pet dog, a popular sight along the café strips of Balmain.

Yet Krnecic was trumped by the victorious Nick

Theodorakopoulos, resplendent in a white jacket with a white shirt. Initially it was thought he was a head waiter or a member of 18th century British colonial aristocracy. The white was of course a metaphor for his coming of age in



Australian soccer. At least that's what IS thought.

Dino Mennillo, in a full length suit jacket, won the Austin Powers award while veteran AAP journo Ted Simmons opted to ditch the safari suit and looked dynamite as a result.

South's Andy Vlahos went for the black bow tie and jacket and unfortunately for the diminutive striker was almost forced to serve the drinks while Canberra's PJ Roberts looked for all money like Manu

Petit. Namesake Newcastle Breakers' Andy 'The General' Roberts was another fashion leader, showing that his work with Newcastle retail outfit 'Gentlemen's Outfitters' has rubbed off on the



pony-tailed hardman of Breakers' Stadium.

Carlton's Archie Thompson however did his best work on the dancefloor, showing the sort of deft footwork that has mesmerised defenders this season.

*Pictured from L to R: Lee Sterrey, Bob Catlin, Graeme Haney, Melissa Muscat (IS) and Eddie Krnecic.



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The 'No way Jose' Tour'
2000 Soccer tour
Game 2 in Brisbane
Australia 0 Paraguay 0



Eleven new faces but same old story



By Cameron Atfield

There were no goals, and next to no fans, as the Socceroos and Paraguay slogged out a scoreless draw at Brisbane's 'Gabba ground on Monday afternoon.

Just 24 hours previously, over 43,000 fans filled Perth's Subiaco Oval to watch one of the all-time classic games played in this country as the Wollongong Wolves claimed their first National League title.

It was a stark contrast in Brisbane, as a near-empty 'Gabba played host to one of the dourest struggles seen in recent times.

Australian coach Frank Farina (below) said he was disappointed with the turnout and attributed some of the blame for the dull performance on the lack of atmosphere.

"You always expect more - you like more - but unfortunately with the racing



weekend and whatnot, they weren't here," he said.

"It's always hard playing in a big stadium that holds 38,000 with only a small crowd - it's difficult for the players to lift."

Given the astronomical ticket prices and an almost total lack of publicity by the promoters, it was surprising anybody showed up at all!

No official crowd figure was released, but the estimated 3,500 who did show up would have good reason to feel duped after forking out up to \$68 to watch the game on offer.

The non-appearance of overseas-based Paul Okon, Stan Lazaridis, David Zdrilic, Tony Popovic and Craig Foster, who all remained on the bench, rubbed further salt into the public's wounds.

Highlights on the field were few and far between, but it is fair to say the Australians had the better of play.

Aurelio Vidmar, playing his first game for the national team in over 12 months, brought the small crowd to life after seven minutes.

Unchallenged, he rose to direct a headed shot to goal, and forced extraverted Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert into a good save.

Vidmar continued to play it up early in the game when, with his back to the Paraguayan goal, he managed to cheekily backheel a shot.

Unfortunately for the game, his audacious shot sailed over the crossbar.

Paraguay's first worthwhile shot came in the sixteenth minute through Victor Hugo Ortiz, but his long-range shot flew over the Australian goal.

Like in the Sydney game on Friday night, the referee was kept busy.

Steve Laybutt was unlucky to be booked for an innocuous challenge on Tomas Gonzalez, whose theatrics could have won him an Oscar nomination.

Just a minute later, Paraguay was awarded a free kick just outside the Australian area.

Chilavert ran the length of the field to take the kick, but the flamboyant goalkeeper's shot hit the wall and was well gathered by the Australian defence.

With Chilavert so far out of his area, it was a perfect opportunity for a break, but the Socceroos were too slow to capitalise.

Paraguay was awarded another free kick in the 32nd minute. Nestor Isasi's long range shot missed all the Australian defenders, but went well wide of Clint Bolton who was making his international debut in the Australian goal.

The Brisbane goalkeeper had a relaxed debut - he was barely troubled all match.

The deadlock remained going into the half time break, and the Australians continued their positional dominance in the second half.

Adelaide Force's Carl Veart had a chance to give the home side the lead just after the break, but his close-range header went over Chilavert's goal.

Luis Romero finally called Bolton into action after 70 minutes, but the Socceroo custodian easily collected his shot.

Two minutes later at the other end of the field, Gabriel Mendez forced a good save from Chilavert with a powerful free kick from just outside the area.

The pace was lifting, and the Paraguayans had a good chance to take the lead fifteen minutes from the break.

Tomas Gonzalez, who looked to be offside, was at the end of a through-ball and found himself in a one-on-one showdown with Bolton.

The Strikers keeper managed to parry the ball away from Gonzalez's feet to the delight of his home crowd.

Australia had good chances falling to Andrew Marth and substitute Brett Emerton (who is off to Feyenoord after the Olympics) before referee Mark Shields finally blew the fulltime whistle, and the dismal display was greeted with boozing from the small 'Gabba crowd.

Speaking after the match, Farina said his side's performance was sadly lacking.

"I wasn't pleased with the performance," he said.

"I said at half-time that we had to pick up the pace, but the intensity wasn't there. We lacked spark, we didn't have any get up and go."

"Things will get better in Melbourne. They have to."

Farina said it was difficult for eleven new players to work well together.

"I was reasonably happy with the way they all adapted to play in the system that we're playing," he said.

"I had eleven new players, and none of them would have played together before in that system. So from that perspective, I was very happy with the way it went."

Paraguayan coach Sergio Markarian said both teams were using the matches to experiment with their lineups.

"Australia, with practice, are becoming more confident," he said.

"Both games have been transitional games. I'm very impressed with the Australians. They are very physical and



New Spirit signing Chi Chi Mendez was our best player in Brisbane, says Cameron Atfield.
 Steve Laybutt (below) was also a solid performer for the Socceroos.

very quick.

"It's hard to find players like that in Paraguay."

Farina conceded the game was not a great advertisement for soccer in Australia.

"It was a very flat game. It needed a goal. We had a number of opportunities, and in the second half it got better," he said.



"But when you're playing and there's not a lot of people (in the crowd) it's very hard for the players to lift."

A lot of the blame must lie squarely with the International Events Corporation (IEC), who promoted of the Paraguay tour.

After such a great weekend for the game in this country, the last thing it needed was another debacle to take the image of Australian soccer back to the cellar.

MATCH STATS

AUSTRALIA 0
PARAGUAY 0
 Referee: Mark Shield (QLD)
 Crowd: 3500 est.

AUSTRALIA: C Bolton, S Laybutt, J van Blerk, S Colosimo (K Muscat 83'), A Marth, S Horvat, A Vidmar, G Mendez, C Zane, P Cardozo (B Emerton 67'). Subs not used: Z Kalac, S Murphy, T Popovic, S Lazaridis, P Okon, C Foster, D Zdrilic.

PARAGUAY: JL Chilavert, N Isasi (A Antar 61'), D Toledo (L Romero 53'), D Caballero, N Zelaya, E Struway, N Ortiz, M Caceres (J Colman 45'), VH Ortiz (W Avalos 45'), R Gaona, T Gonzalez (C Isidro 79'). Subs not used: J Villar, J Cardozo, R Avinalagade, E Robles.

Yellows:
Australia: Gabriel Mendez 18', Steve Laybutt 25'
Paraguay: Roland Gaona 29', Luis Romero 69', Walter Avalos 71', Julio Colman 78'.

Stats:

	AUS	PAR
Corners:	10	4
Offsides:	3	4
Shots:	19	7
Shots on Goal:	6	2
Yellows:	2	4
Fouls:	21	25

BEST PLAYERS:
1. GABRIEL MENDEZ (AUSTRALIA)
2. Steve Laybutt (Australia)
3. Walter Avalos (Paraguay)

The 'No way Jose Tour'
2000 Soccer tour
Game 3 in Melbourne
Australia 2 Paraguay 1

By Alan Clark

Socceroo coach Frank Farina notched up his first win on home soil in Australia's 2-1 defeat of Paraguay in the final game of the three-match series at Olympic Park in Melbourne on Thursday night.

After two and a half games in the series without a goal, three were scored in a nine-minute flurry early in the second half, bursting the match into life.

Craig Foster's left-foot volley two minutes after the break ended the scoring drought that had afflicted this series, and six minutes later David Zdrilic extended



Agostino flies high at Olympic Park.

Australia's lead with a shot on the turn from the edge of the area. But before the Socceroos could consolidate, Miguel Caceres took advantage of an error of judgement from goalkeeper Zejko Kalac to bring Paraguay back into the contest.

And in a match where the Paraguayans practised their histrionics as much as their football, Jose Luis Chilavert - their charismatic goalkeeper and captain

- tested referee Gerry Connolly's patience once too often, and received his second yellow card of the game in added time, ending his participation in the game.

It wasn't the end of his involvement in the action, as he declined to leave the field for several minutes, exchanging angry words and insulting gestures with the Australian players during this period.

Although Paraguay might well have engineered the dismissal to give the Asuncion supporters some comfort that the defeat had been as a consequence of Paraguay being one short, the dismissal occurred well after the game was safely won for Australia.

Foster's goal was the catalyst for the game opening up, goading Paraguay into action, and resulted in the South Americans' best moments.

Perhaps it was that Paraguay intended to practise the possible away leg tactics in any World Cup elimination meeting between these two nations, but they scarcely showed the attacking flair that had taken them to the second stage of the last World Cup. In fact, they seemed at least as much interested in gamesmanship than in the game for most of the match.

Few Paraguayans can look back at their contribution in this game with any joy.

The best scoring opportunities in the first half had all been Australia's, and all been squandered, none more so than Paul Okon's 40th minute penalty blasted high over Chilavert's bar in a captain versus captain face-off.

The penalty award came after Danny Tiatto had been hauled down in the box by Roland Gaona after he had already skipped one high tackle when making his threatening progress to goal.

The world-wise Paraguayans then manufactured a delay before Okon could take the kick, by engaging in a pushing duel at the edge of the penalty-area which required the intervention of referee Connolly to settle things down again.

Unsurprisingly, Chilavert was one of those to become embroiled in the exchanges, and cheekily patted Okon on the head as he made his back to his goal-line, saying something to Okon as he went by.

Speaking about the incident after the game at the post-match media conference, Okon said, "He said something to me in English, but I didn't understand what he said."



Cold hard professionalism or gamesmanship? Chilavert, after a disturbance on the edge of the box, taps Okon on the head before the penalty. He missed.

Aussies win the series as Jose says no way



Dave Zdrilic celebrates his first goal and the Aussies' second in Melbourne versus Paraguay.

MATCH STATS

AUSTRALIA 2 (0)
PARAGUAY 1 (0)

AUSTRALIA: Kalac, Muscat, Murphy, Popovic, Emerton, Foster (Corica 82), Okon (c), Lazaridis, Tiatto (Chipperfield 66), Zdrilic (Zane 66), Agostino. Subs not used: Laybutt, Vidmar A, Colosimo, Bolton, Cardozo P, Horvat.

Scorers: Foster (47), Zdrilic (52).

PARAGUAY: Chilavert (c), Zelaya (Antar 65), Romero, Caballero, Toledo (Robles 46), Ortiz N (Aviniagaldo 59), Struway, Gaona (Ortiz V 78), Isasi, Avalos (Gonzalez 58, Villar 92+), Caceres. Subs not used: Cardozo J, Candia, Colman.

Scorers: Caceres (58).

Yellow Cards: Chilavert (21, 91+), Struway (55), Isasi (63), Caballero (72).

Red Cards: Chilavert (91+).

Referee: Gerry Connolly.
Assistants: Michael Parry, Mathew Cream.

Fourth Official: Jeremy Blaney.

Crowd: Estimate 7,000

BEST PLAYERS:

3. Okon (Aust)
2. Emerton (Aust)
1. Zdrilic (Aust)

McShea selected for Olympics

The 18-member Australian Olympic Women's Football Team 2000 was announced on Sunday by the Australian Olympic Committee at the Australian Institute of Sport, Canberra. Kate McShea confirmed her startling rise with a berth in the squad after making her debut for Australia in the recent Pacific Cup.

Australia's first ever Olympic women's football representatives were presented to the media by Australian Olympic Team Assistant Chef de Mission and dual Olympic swimming gold medallist, John Devitt in a brief but moving ceremony.

The Olympic Team is the same as the Matildas combination that performed so well at this month's Pacific Cup but for one change. Key striker Julie Murray, still recovering from ankle surgery, replaces Lisa Casagrande up front.

The Matildas' medical staff are confident Murray, last year a member of the FIFA World All-Stars Team, will be fit in time for September.

Kate McShea, the youngest in the team at just seventeen, timed her run to perfection for Olympic selection. Taking up an AIS Scholarship only last November, McShea was sidelined for three months with glandular fever before she could join the Matildas Squad in full training.

National Coach Chris Tansey has also named four 'alternates' who will be on standby in case of injury, etc. These players will continue training at the AIS with the Team.

The selections are below.



Dianne ALAGICH SA
Hometown: Adelaide
DOB: 12/05/79
Position: D
Caps: 17
Goals: 0
Sharon BLACK SA
Adelaide
04/04/71
M
50



Pacific Cup bodes well but we need more games

By Aidan Ormond

The Pacific Cup was always going to be a good measure of Australia's progress under Chris Tansey and his assistant Ian Murray. The good news is that our national and Olympic side, the Matildas, are looking much improved. Tansey - just returned from overseas after a family loss - has seen the videos of the games and can pinpoint where the improvement is.

"They've been wonderful and I knew they would do a great job," Tansey said back at the AIS.

"However the Canada game was a little lesson they will learn from." This 2-0 loss was the only time the coaching staff had genuine reason to feel we let ourselves down.

"Against Japan we dominated. The China game showed how we stepped up ... we actually matched China. We played a little bit as well. Before we were just Aussie battlers defending our guts out, we are now showing a little bit more style on top of that part of our game."

"We now have to have a cutting edge in that last third of the field," said Tansey of his attacking options. "These results however are about learning about ourselves. We've been hammering the girls to be intensive mentally and physically. And that showed in the China game."

"Even though the US played well we never looked like we were being dragged all over the place."

"The girls know they all have jobs to do. And mentally they are getting wound up. We tell them everyone's against them. By the time the Olympics come they will be lunatics."

Stand in coach for the Cup Ian Murray agrees. "Yeah, disregarding

finishing fourth in the tournament, we showed we are on track. We can get a little fitter and probably lacked a little pace up front. Having said that we showed we can keep possession very well and really push the top nations."

The only blip was a loss to Canada in game three, the third match in five days. Changes to the side and a tough schedule in the 48 hrs prior was always going to make it difficult. Coming off the high of the China game was another problem, a factor Murray readily agreed with.

"We spoke to our sports psychologists to help us but it was to no avail. Canada had just come off a 9-1 thumping and we were so high after the record crowd and game against China. I looked at our girls and I looked at theirs and I just knew we weren't ready mentally on the day."

Murray was critical of the referees in the tournament, particularly with the red card of Ferguson in the China game. "The referee's report said it was malicious. I didn't think it was and most felt the same way."

"Di Alagich and Cheryl Salisbury were rock solid in a side that is strong down the centre of the park. Young Kate McShea was sensational as was Alison Forman."

"That was why we wanted to get sides playing down the middle, that's where our strength is," added Murray.



Inside Soccer's best Aussie player in the Pacific Cup: skipper and midfield dynamo Alison Forman.

Wins over New Zealand and Japan and pushing superpowers China and the US to the limit augers very well not only for the Olympics, but for the future progress of the women's game under the structures being put in place by national coach Chris Tansey and his team.

There are national U/15 titles that the team will play in, but it's internationals that Tansey wants in the next two months. The national team needs games. At this stage there aren't any internationals planned apart from some home-based friendlies two weeks before the Olympics.

This is going to make it difficult for the coaching staff despite the team showing encouraging improvement during the Pacific Cup.

19
Bryony DUUS QLD

Brisbane
07/10/77

M

21

2

Alicia FERGUSON QLD

Brisbane
31/10/81

F

24

5

Alison FORMAN (capt) NNSW

Newcastle
17/03/69

M

61

6

Heather GARROCK NSW (pic)

Sydney
21/12/82

M

10

1

Kelly GOLEBIOWSKI NSW

Sydney
26/07/81

F

27

0

Peita-Claire HEPPERLIN ACT

Canberra
24/12/81

M

10

0

Sunni HUGHES NNSW

Newcastle
09/06/68

F

55

23

Kate McSHEA QLD

Brisbane
13/04/83

M

5

0

Julie MURRAY NSW

Canberra
28/04/70

F

66

19

Cheryl SALISBURY NNSW

Newcastle
08/03/74

D

61

23

Bridgette STARR NSW

Newcastle
10/12/75

D

49

1

Anissa TANN-DARBY NSW

Sydney
10/10/67

D

81

8

Leanne TRIMBOLI SA

Adelaide

10/11/75

GK

3

0

Sacha WAINWRIGHT ACT

Canberra
06/02/72

D

26

1

Tracey WHEELER WA

Sydney
26/09/67

GK

43

0

Amy WILSON ACT

Canberra
09/06/80

M

20

0

Four 'alternates' have also been named by National Coach Chris Tansey, and will be on standby in case of injury etc. These players will continue to train with the Team at the AIS in Canberra ...

Joanne BUTLAND QLD, Lisa CASAGRANDE ACT, Danielle SMALL NSW, Amy TAYLOR ACT



By Aidan Ormond

There's action aplenty on the Sydney transfer front. At Power three signings, Socceroo legend Alex Tobin, plus Nick Orlac and Hamilton Thorp, were announced last week. With five titles between them, Tobin and Orlac look to be sound investments while Thorp should add some bite to the strike-force.

"Orlic is a no nonsense tough tackler, who will add a good balance to the Power's defensive line", said coach Dave Mitchell.

"Tobin's vast experience will certainly benefit the Power; he is a great Club man whom we are hoping will lead from the front this season. Our attacking line will be strengthened also, with the addition of Hamilton Thorp who is a very talented striker. He holds the ball up very well and brings others into the game," he added.

Tobin, whose move from Adelaide City was an acrimonious one, said his new

Power signals a more aggressive approach

club was one with a great future. "It's certainly a club with big plans with an incredible set-up. It was a big decision for me to move from Adelaide. There's no question though that I'm up for the challenge," the 87-cap Socceroo said.

South Melbourne's Orlac concurred, saying he hoped to play in another World Club Championship with his new club. "I spoke with a few coaches but this club really impressed me. The potential is there to win something and that's why I'm here. Power is going in the right direction so hopefully this year we can qualify for the WCC and I can once again play in such an extraordinary tournament."

Orlic, 29, has actually played in the NSL with a Parramatta side. That was the Eagles in the early 90s. He also went to play for Sydney Olympic before joining up for South's back-to-back title run.

"It's a good challenge for me and of course it's great to back in Sydney," Orlac added.

Power coach Mitchell has made no secret of his desire to shore up his defence after a surprisingly shaky first season. "That seemed to be the problem from day one last year at the back. Obviously both these boys are experienced and they know how to defend ... I rate them two of the best in the league," he noted.

Power defender Joe Vrkic is tipped to be transferred while Richard Plesa's



Nick Orlac at his new home at Parramatta Stadium. At left is Alex Tobin.

future is unclear. Also tipped to join the Power is a Cosmos player who made a splash late in the season.

Mitchell is considering using Tobin on the right of defence and Orlac on his usual left side. Added to that is Mark Bynes, a player who will benefit from the experience of playing with such defenders, and the classy Milan Blagojevic who can also play as the free man at the back.

With 436 appearances Tobin is on track to surpass fellow Adelaide City player Sergio Melta's all-time NSL appearance record.

*Parramatta Power's awards night was held recently. Winners were: Club Highest Goal Scorer – **Brendan Santalab** (13 goals), Media and Supporters' Player of the Year – **Mark Byrnes**, NYL Player of the Year – **John Kelso**, NSL Player of the Year – **Milan Blagojevic**, Coaches' Award – **Ahmad Elrich**, Clubman of the Year – **John Gibson**

*The club has hinted on its net site that it may play some games in the country next season.

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Power's centre of excellence

By Aidan Ormond

In keeping with current trends Parramatta Power will have its own Centre of Excellence for talented teenage players.

Grant Lee will be head coach at the inaugural Power Centre of Excellence. The former Olympic, Sydney City and Young Socceroo will have the on-field duties while John Curran - a local identity with strong contacts - will be looking after the administration. "Hopefully this will give the kids a pathway and of course we want them to reach their genetic potential," Lee said.

"Often you find kids at 18 are asked to step up and they can't because they haven't been taught properly," Lee said.

"So there is the big picture factor here as well. We will have to work in with the associations, schools and the federations to see what is best for the kids."

"We want to build a loyalty factor up with the kids so they will want to stay with the club and end up playing with the first team. We want to provide a pathway for them by providing an elite level of coaching."

Lee's duties will be to coach the coaches and of course the players and liaising with David Mitchell and his staff.

NSL transfer news

Marconi is expected to announce at least two new signings as part of Eddie Krnacevic's overall plan to shape a more hungry side.

Meanwhile Olympic has signed Clint Bolton. On-loan gloveman John Perosh is back at Spirit after his short stay at Belmore while other keepers Bouhoustos and Kourtis are off contract.

Olympic could also be interested in a reliable Victorian defender from one of the less 'glamorous' Victorian clubs. They will however have to come up with a very tempting package to lure this committed defender.

Northern Spirit reportedly is signing up players like it's going out of fashion

while Wollongong have signed 19 of their 24-man first team squad.

One who has not signed at time of writing is Les Pogliacomi, the GF 2000 hero.

At Gippsland striker Peter Kakos, Doug Marcina, Igor Mandic, Sandy Robertson and reserve keeper Simon Miotto are expected to be let go.

Coach Hopkins is in England looking at players.

And reports from NZ stating that Sydney United's skilful midfielder Ante Moric may be playing for the Kingz are, according to the player, off the mark. "I've not been approached," he said.

Moric is off contract at Edensor Park.

Buonavoglia signs for three years

By Aidan Ormond

Unless something dramatic happens, like the fax machine blowing up, then I'll sign with Newcastle for three years." Those were the words Breakers fans have been waiting to hear. While on holiday near Byron Bay John Buonavoglia confirmed he will resign for Newcastle. The club was due to fax him the copy of a new contract to his hotel yesterday.

The dynamic striker said it was a decision he took very seriously. "At the end of the day the club has looked after me very well. The players and supporters have been fantastic. This is from the heart because I feel very comfortable with Newcastle."

The former Super League Player of the



Year - who was in the running for last Friday night's NSL Player of the Year - said he had agreed terms although conceded the club's ownership problems still linger in the back of his mind. "I've signed in good faith. Yes I suppose it's a bit of a risk but the club has been very good about it and I'm confident about the future."

Cach Lee Sterrey - currently in the USA - has long said that Buonavoglia suits Newcastle's system of counter-attacking. "Yeah I probably do," said the Breakers striker, "although I haven't played for any other NSL side so I don't really know."

Buonavoglia was a target of big spending Northern Spirit. He also runs a restaurant in Sydney but hinted he may possibly move up to Newcastle in years to come.

Oh, and John says the weather is great!

Sydney University wins Kennard Cup

Sydney Uni had a comfortable 3-1 victory over UNSW in last Sunday's Kennard Cup challenge match.

Goals came after and own goal in the tenth minute, 26 min (Yakon Rubenstein), and 57 min (Gordon Pitt) before UNSW pulled one back from the penalty spot on 73 by Nestor Moreno.

Sydney running out comfortable 7-1 victors on aggregate to claim the Kennard Cup for the second consecutive year after a previous spell of some 23 years without claiming the trophy (1976-99).

Socceroos to sing an acoustic version of Advance Australia Fair?

All the usual travel shenanigans has gone on with the Socceroos in Tahiti for the Oceania Nations Cup. The original flight was cancelled by Air NZ, so the players and coaches had to fly Qantas to LAX and then Air Tahiti to Papeete.

Instead of an 8.5 hour flight, it took 23.5 hours. Thankfully the luggage didn't get lost but 'delegation gifts' were smashed and the anthem and flag went missing.

Perhaps now the side can sing the anthem sans music? We're told the players have fine voices.

The Cup was presented at a well-attended presentation function by both the Sydney University Vice Chancellor Gavin Brown, and Desmond Kennard, son of William Kennard the prominent official from the earliest days of the NSWSF, after whom the cup is named.

Many old boys from the two clubs were in attendance including former Soccer Australia supremo David Hill and Manly striker Rob Smithies, currently out of action with an arm injury.

Stan Lazaridis is a nervous flyer at the best of times, but he managed to get through this one without too much worry.

According to officials, the side has trained well since arriving and looks very sharp. They have also been watching the Euro 2000 action on cable TV.

The squad (listed on page three) features newly crowned NSL Player of the Year, Wollongong's Scott Chipperfield.

Aussies in Asia

S-League Round 13 by Scott O'Donnell in Singapore

Alan Vest's gamble to make a triple substitution with 10 minutes to go with his team down 2-1 paid off when Geylang snatched a late equaliser against defending champions, Home United. In a game that was played in heavy rain for most of the match, both teams put on an impressive display.

Former Socceroo Ernie Tapai was voted man of the match for his tireless performance in the middle of the park, as well as converting a penalty in the first half. He was unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions in the second half when his shots were superbly saved by the Geylang keeper.

Geylang equalised from a direct free-kick, leaving the score 1-1 at half time. Former Marconi and Olympic striker, Alex Duric, got on the scoresheet with a simple tap in to give Home the lead, before substitute Razali leveled the scores with two minutes left on the clock.

Geylang should be quite happy with the point, considering they went into the match without striker Brian Bothwell, who is still recover-

ing from a back injury, and Kiwi international Gavin Wilkinson, who is on international duty.

League leaders, SAFFC remain at the top of the table after defeating Darren Stewart's Balestier Central 6-2 at Jurong Stadium. The match was delayed for 30 minutes due to the torrential rain before the kick-off. Balestier got off to a great start leading 1-0 but the young side could not keep out the experienced SAFFC team, which contains seven internationals. A hat-trick by national skipper, Nazri Nasir sealed the fate of Balestier, leaving them eight points a drift, at the bottom of the table.

Aussie Mirko Jurilj's Sembawang Rangers made it two wins on the trot with a 1-0 victory over Anthony Carbone's Marine Castle. Marine Castle, who seem to be missing the services of Aussie, Michael Garcia, have dropped down to second last spot on the table.

In other results, Gombak defeated Tampines 3-1, Clementi beat Jurong 2-1 while Tanjong Pagar were held to a 2-2 draw with Woodlands.

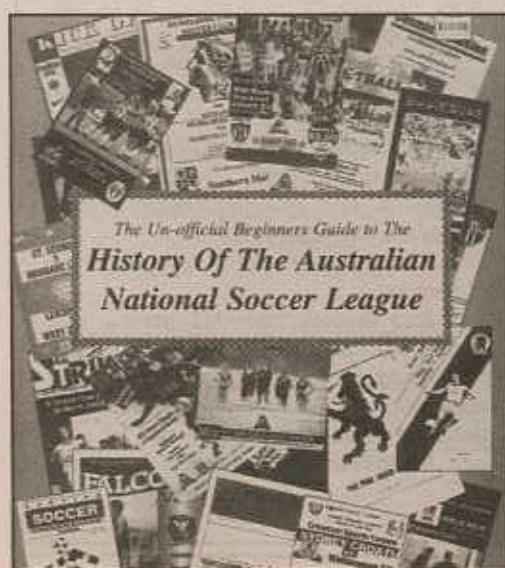
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GREG BLAKE

C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR

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Perhaps more to Perth's legendary grand final choke than initially met the eye?

I've always considered ABC Television's expert analyst, Alan Hunter, to be one of the best going around.

But on further review of the NSL Grand Final video I reckon Hunter inadvertently offered viewers a most valuable insight into the problems which obviously plagued Perth Glory very early on in the biggest game of the season.

As the ABC's main commentator wrapped up his call of Bobby Despotovski's grand final go-ahead goal he tailed off with "...and he's recently become a dad."

"Well, you can put a lot of that down to Scott Miller," Hunter immediately chimed in.

Geeze, with those sort of divisive goings-on in the Glory camp it's no wonder the team work fell to pieces under pressure.

The post-grand final popularity of the NSL showpiece match-up has been remarkable, with some legendary stories of otherwise completely soccer-indifferent punters jostling for prime viewing positions in pubs around the country as the Perth-Wollongong blockbuster headed towards that nerve-tingling climax.

Wollongong boss, Nick Theodorakopoulos, has been staggered at the response to what can only be considered to be thus far the footy contest of the century.

"Everyone has been stopping me in the street - not just in Wollongong, but at the airport and in Sydney - saying what a great game it was," he said.

"Even the damned garbage collector - it's been overwhelming."

"And it's not just soccer people saying it, either."

"People who probably don't know the game too well at all have commented about what a great game it was and saying they didn't know that that's how soccer is played."

Don't worry about that, Nick, because that's been the reaction everywhere to a match which should rightly have its own chapter reserved in the history books as the greatest NSL game ever played.

As I said one week ago, on behalf of everyone who rode the soccer wave all the way to the MCG only to have their hopes dashed in that fateful meeting with Iran some three years ago, our heartfelt thanks to Wollongong, Perth Glory and all those quite wonderful fans in WA for re-igniting that flame of hope for us.

Thank goodness Eddie Lennie had a ripper grand final. Not that the bloke doesn't know the caper, but appointing a West Australian-based whistler to referee in front of 43,000 rabid Sandgropers was an exercise fraught with danger.

Steady Eddie is as polished as they come, but you can imagine the battering his selection would have received had Perth edged a win in the big game in a controversial finish.

There's nothing like a decent stat to shed some light on any game. And devoted followers of form might have noted that going into the NSL finals series that Perth Glory's overall season stats suggested clearly that their second half performances hinted at Achilles heel territory.

Glory was the only team amongst the top 11 finishers on the NSL ladder to

finish with a negative second half goal difference at the end of the home and away rounds.

Whilst Bernd Stange's team was pretty good at putting opponents in the pocket early - keeping them there - the boys from WA were more than a little tardy when it came to playing for 90 minutes.

You wouldn't have backed them to cough up a three goal buffer with Monopoly money, but Wollongong's revival wouldn't have stunned form punters.

Definite signs of a changing of the NSL guard to end this first season of the new millennium.

For the first time in 24 years of NSL history not a single one of the remaining four original NSL clubs - Marconi, Sydney Olympic, South Melbourne and Adelaide City - featured amongst the top three in the standings after the finals series.

My only grand final gripe. Can the league please explain why Wollongong supporters were offered an allocation of what I understand was less than 100 general admission tickets to a game at a stadium which boasts a capacity of around 43,000?

And I'm not interested in your silver-tails and corporates here; those buggers can buy their way into anything.

My understanding from some south coast pals is that the hard-core, the poor



mugs who've probably followed the Wolves faithfully up and down the land over the years, were cold-shouldered for the big show.

Your average punters are the bloody game here.

And whilst Perth Glory was always going to sell the game out someone wasn't fair dinkum about looking after the people who really count.

To say nothing of some friends and relations of the Wollongong boys, who might never again get the chance to see some of these blokes ever again reach such heights in their footy careers.

Did I hear a yawn from Soc.Aus. headquarters?

Just to tie a bow around the whole event, the following records were all broken or equaled in the 1999/2000 Grand Final.

Wollongong's meteoric rise from 10th last season to a title is a league best-ever, just edging Adelaide City's ninth to first effort between 1985 and 1986; - Biggest NSL crowd ever, with the 43,242 fans who packed Subiaco Oval eclipsing every previous league attendance record (most of which were held by Perth Glory anyway!);

- Most team goals in a grand final, with the triple from both Perth Glory and Wollongong City equaling the previous mark; - Most aggregate goals in a grand final; - Wollongong City's climb back from the crypt after half time was the best-ever comeback to win a finals game; - Equal highest-scoring penalty shoot-out to decide a final; - Wollongong's David Cervinski now joins an elite group of just five other players to have played in five NSL Grand Finals;

And as a final footnote, the grand final attendance pushed the league's season aggregate through the turnstiles to over 1.5 million fans for the very first time.

Somebody, please stop me.

I've watched the replay of the grand final four times now; I cannot stop re-running the highlights; I've talked everyone I know into a stupor about the game, even dreamed about it.

Need help.
Is there a support network available?

SPORT

NET-ABC HOUSEHOLDS Tarps (%) SYDNEY

	MELBOURNE	BRISBANE	ADELAIDE	PERTH
13:00 - 13:15	-	-	-	8
13:15 - 13:30	-	-	-	12
13:30 - 13:45	-	-	-	15
13:45 - 14:00	-	-	-	17
14:00 - 14:15	-	-	-	19
14:15 - 14:30	-	-	-	16
14:30 - 14:45	-	-	1	16
14:45 - 15:00	-	-	2	22
15:00 - 15:15	2	1	2	24
15:15 - 15:30	2	1	2	25
15:30 - 15:45	2	2	2	27
15:45 - 16:00	3	2	1	29
16:00 - 16:15	3	2	1	32
16:15 - 16:30	3	2	2	23
16:30 - 16:45	3	2	3	-
16:45 - 17:00	4	2	4	-
17:00 - 17:15	5	3	4	-
17:15 - 17:30	6	3	5	-
17:30 - 17:45	7	4	-	-
17:45 - 18:00	9	5	-	-
18:00 - 18:15	10	7	-	-
18:15 - 18:30	9	8	-	-

Household Rating (%) - The percentage of households with a television tuned to the ABC during the quarter hour listed. Source: ACNielsen, June 11, 2000.

GRAND FINAL 2000

What's the story mourning Glory?

Brett Klucznik
sums up a city
in shock ...

Glory players speak

By Brett Klucznik

Perth was a city in mourning this week as its residents came to terms with the emotional Grand Final loss to Wollongong Wolves. Hardly surprisingly, it was the players that felt the loss heaviest, and while some are not willing to discuss their pain in the public domain, others have found it to be part of the healing process.

Jason Petkovic rated the Grand Final loss alongside the Socceroos' infamous draw with Iran in 1997 - the 'keeper was sitting on the bench that night. "It was just like Australia-Iran when we were 2-0 up and we couldn't keep them out ... there was euphoria and disaster all in one game ... all the work we've put in is worth nothing at the end. We just let them back in the game when we had it won."

For Troy Halpin, it was the most important game of his career. "For me personally it was definitely the biggest game I've played in and it's devastating to lose it that way," he said.

The half-time message from Bernd Stange was simple - avoid complacency.

"We said all the things you should say when you're 3-0 up. Let's not go to sleep, make sure we keep playing ... and we did the exact opposite ... when you're 3-0 up at half-time you shouldn't have to worry about anything other than picking up the trophy at the end of the game."

Wollongong were always going to come out and have a go at us. We just adjusted too late."

A dejected Alistair Edwards (right) fought back tears at the final whistle. "The Wollongong boys seem quite happy ... we would like to have won it, but Edgar missed, I missed ... so you know, next year."

Devastated by the loss, Ivan Ergic tried to play down the pain of defeat that was evident in his face. "All I wanted was to win the title, now I'm down a bit ... after 3-nil we shouldn't have let them get back to 3-all and then win on penalties."

And goalscorer Ljubo Milicevic was simply stunned. "I don't think that you would have thought that this could happen. But we let it happen. We're the ones who have to cop it now. We're all the ones that have got regrets for the rest of

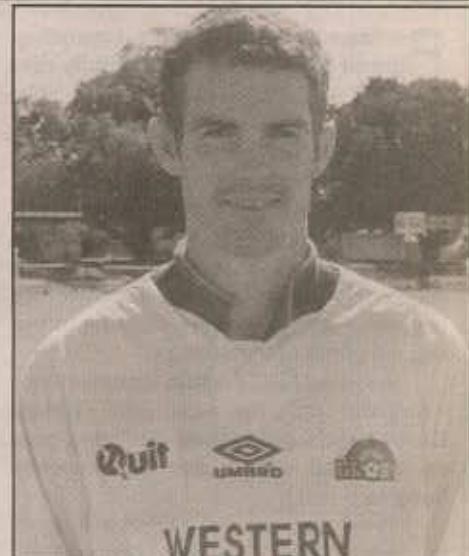
our lives."

Disappointed with the outcome, Kasey Wehrman was well aware that the day was a great advertisement for the game. "That's the drama of football I suppose. You've seen it all at the highest quality today - penalties that went in, that didn't go in, we could have won it twice and then they took their chances and won it."

They kept coming at us all day ... it's the luck of the draw with penalties, but they deserved it really in the end. Hopefully we'll be back bigger and better next year."

It'll probably take a little while to regroup from this - I know I will - 'cause so much hard work has gone into this season. We've packed out the stadium again, 3-0 at half-time and then disaster struck. It's very disappointing."

Speaking the day after the loss, the agony of the penalty miss was still fresh in James Afkos' mind. "I think I feel worse today, it's back to reality. Last night wasn't too bad but I woke up this morning, well I didn't really wake up I haven't had any sleep, it was a sleepless night. It's been



the longest morning yet," he said the day after.

"Miserable is just an understatement ... to miss a penalty, that's just not good enough and I do somehow feel accountable for the outcome."

Unable to articulate himself after the game, Gareth Naven said that the pain of the loss was still as strong late in the week. "I find myself driving on the freeway and thinking about different situations - where we scored, they scored, that sort of thing. I think I'll get that for the next week or so."

Loss will help us says Lefort

According to Perth Glory general manager Roger Lefort, his club will emerge from the ashes of their Grand Final loss bigger and stronger. "Okay, we're disappointed about the way we lost on Sunday after leading 3-0 at half-time, but there are many positives to take out of the season - and much to look forward to," he said.

"We won the minor premiership and made the grand final and we think we will be a stronger unit next season with two or three extra players."

We will have floodlights at Perth Oval and we have the prospect of a new stadium in two years. The new venue will enable international games to be played here, as well as top NSL fixtures, and the profile of soccer in Western Australia can only increase."

Bernd Stange, who agrees with his general manager, has already put the Grand Final loss behind him. "I am the first man who is over this crisis. We should be happy with what Perth Glory has achieved, not only in my time, but in four years (since the club was formed)."

The Glory coach is now planning for the 2000/2001 season and believes the club will be in a strong position should they secure the services of at least two high-profile players. "Perth Glory is the best club in the country and we should have the best players here," he said. "But we should have a good balance between high-profile players and youngsters. We will not forget the Premier League here in W.A."

A few days after the championship decider, Stange still believed that it was Glory's lack of experience that cost them the game. "If you play in Argentina or Brazil, the last 15 minutes are terrible because they take the speed out of the game."

We have to learn to play for a result and not for the fans."

It's my job to teach them, to give them more confidence, to be cooler. But it is forgotten now. We should remember it was a great day for soccer."

You're not wrong Bernd.

Glory exodus?

It's looking likely that Perth Glory could lose up to nine players from this season's squad that made the NSL Grand Final, including promising youngster Ivan Ergic.

One-time Socceroo midfielder Troy Halpin, who was given an ultimatum to sign a new contract or start looking for a new club three weeks ago, has rejected two offers of a new deal and is keen to try his luck overseas. "I don't know what's going to happen as far as where I'll be playing. It's out of my hands," he said after the Grand Final.

Another player whose future at the club is unclear is Olyroo midfielder Kasey Wehrman who will wait until after the Olympic Games before weighing up his options. He travelled to his home city of Brisbane last week for a minor operation on his right ankle.

It's no secret that Croatian champions Dinamo Zagreb have been keeping a watchful eye on goalkeeper Jason Petkovic. It has been claimed that the one-time Socceroo has already signed a deal with the club but Petkovic refutes that, "I've got nothing yet (in the way of an offer). I'd like to go overseas, but I've got two years left here."

There have been reports that English Premier League outfit Middlesbrough are monitoring the progress of Jamie Harnwell, while Ljubo Milicevic is being tracked by clubs in Belgium and Holland. And sweeper Vinko Buljubasic, who has played only a scattering of games in the past two years due to injury, is yet to agree terms with the club.

There are definitely two players on their way out of the Glory camp - Hamilton Thorp and Aurelio. Thorp has been on the outer since the well publicised mid-April incident against Newcastle Breakers and has already left the club for the pastures of Parramatta Power. Brazilian striker Aurelio, who was signed in January 2000, has not impressed enough to warrant an extension of his contract.

But on the bright side, it has been confirmed that Stange had signed a new one-year contract. Glory announced mid-April that Stange had agreed in principle to a new contract, but the German only put pen to paper in the week leading up to the Grand Final. "Bernd didn't want any fuss, that's why we didn't say anything," said club gen-

eral manager Roger Lefort.

"He's signed for at least another year. We will look at it again at the appropriate time."

Stange is in Europe this week where he'll watch the closing matches of Euro 2000 before holidaying in Germany. It is believed the coach will also be using his extensive European contacts to lure at least one high-profile player to the club for next season.

That player won't be current German international Ulf Kirsten, who was linked to Glory earlier in the year, as he has extended his contract with Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga.

Another positive for the club is the extension of defensive midfielder Edgar's contract by a further two years. There was speculation that the Brazilian's asking fee would put him out of the club's range, but this has been scoffed at by club officials.

Edgar (above) has been one of Glory's most consistent performers this season and he recently took out the "Sunday Times" / Giardini Glory Player of the Year trophy. He also came a close second in the club's Sony Player of the Year.

Lefort confirmed that Glory are looking to add two or three big name players to its squad for next season. The club have already announced the signing of Olyroo striker Michael Curcija, dependant upon his trials in Yugoslavia with Partizan Belgrade and Adelaide City Force's Damian Mori, after 299 NSL games will play his 300th in a Glory shirt.

Other players who have been linked with a move west in the past month include Craig Deans (Carlton), Pablo Cardozo (Sydney Olympic), Robert Liparoti (South Melbourne) and Sandy Robertson (Gippsland Falcons).



Glory and WA news

With Brett Klucznik in Perth

Olyroo Ergic to Germany?

By Brett Klucznik

Perth Glory golden boy Ivan Ergic could be headed for the European continent within a fortnight.

German club Hertha Berlin have formally approached Glory regarding the teenage midfielder's future via general manager Roger Lefort. "They wanted to talk to Ivan. We said at this stage just show us how interested you are. They've done that," said Lefort.

"I have written to them and I'm just waiting on a reply. I don't know if they will be coming out here again. We asked them to wait until the grand final was out of the way, so I assume there might be contact from them quite soon."

Valued at \$8 million by the German press, Glory have refused to put a price on Ergic's head. In his rookie season in the NSL, the attacking midfielder netted 10 goals this season and made a big impression in the finals series. "Ivan's a very good player and would probably command a considerable figure, but I'm not prepared to say what that figure might be," Lefort said.

"We would like to keep Ivan, but the money is of interest to us. It would certainly help us to build up the club and sign other players."

It is known that several other clubs are interested in Ergic, including Italy's Juventus, Spain's Valencia, England's Newcastle United and Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers. "There is a growing interest in Ivan, although Hertha is the only one that has approached us," Lefort said.

"But there were many scouts at the Grand Final game."

Perth Glory representative at the NSL awards night confirmed that Ergic is a possibility to move in the "next few months."

Ergic, who is yet to make a public announcement on his future, was disappointed to end up on the losing side in the Grand Final and off-the-record has been quoted as saying he wants to stay with Glory next season to have another shot at winning the title.

Meanwhile the remarkable season of Perth Glory teenagers Ljubo Milicevic and Ergic was recognised on Thursday with a

call-up to the Olympic Games squad. The pair, who are best of friends off the park, first played together at the AIS a couple of years ago and featured heavily in the side that won the National Youth League in 1997/1998.

For Milicevic (right bottom), it will be a dream come true when he pulls on the green and gold for the first time as he's long held that ambition.

It will be another stepping stone in the fast-burgeoning career of Ergic (right top) who has previously played for the Young Socceroos twice, against South Korea in February 1999 when he found the back of the net once.

Back in Perth after a season in Portugal with first Division outfit Maritimo, Kevin Correia has linked up with his former club Fremantle City for the European off-season.

The 21-year old is at the half way stage of a two year contract and will play for the next two months in the W.A. State League before heading back to Portugal where he hopes to finally hold down a regular spot in his club's senior



side. "It's very hard over there with so many top players, but I did manage to play for the first team in quite a few friendly games and scored four goals. It's even tough in the reserves."

"Two of my teammates in the reserves are Portuguese national youth team players, so the competition is pretty hot for places."

Another indication of the depth at Maritimo is Correia's squad number: number 55. The club has 72 players on their books.



every five years. But if it turns out every week they (Glory) are getting 19,000 turning up and there is the demand for another 10,000 (seats) on the basis they can fill them then we'll contemplate going to the next stage."

Glory general manager Roger Lefort said that the news was what everyone at the club had been waiting for. "The site they have chosen is going to be tremendous for us, rugby and for tourism. In my view, it will become quite a landmark in Perth."

He added that it was hoped the stadium would feature a standing area for up to 5,000 fans to accommodate Glory's Shed supporters.

"While the trend is to go for all-seater stadiums we have a rather unique situation with our Hill/Shed (fans) and we would like to cater for them."

Ratings for GF "thrashed AFL"

The ABC in Perth is over the moon with their Grand Final ratings. Channel 2 scored their highest figures of the year for this game, it peaked at 32 with some 280,000 Perth viewers tuning in.

Soccer slaughtered Channel Seven's coverage of the AFL which came as little surprise to Seven programmer Jamie Martinovich, he was at the Glory-Wolves match rather than supporting the game his network calls its own.

Speaking with Aidan Ormond, Penny Tassone, from ABC publicity in WA, said she was delighted with the figures. "We thrashed the AFL. And we pulled out all stops with 15 cameras and super-slow-mo for the production of the Grand Final coverage."

The contract for Australian soccer is now up for renegotiation - the two year farm out to ABC has now ended. Tassone said she was hopeful the ABC would be retained.

ABC caller Steve Robilliard said the atmosphere at the big game "was unbelievable." Ironically, Robilliard is actually from Wollongong.

Gazza saga ends

Middlesbrough has confirmed that midfielder Paul Gascoigne will not be going anywhere over the English off-season.

The former England player was last month linked with a move to W.A. State League side E.C.U. Joondalup and recently to Finnish side F.C. Jokerit (were not joking, that's their name!).

A spokesman for the club said, "We have not offered Paul Gascoigne on loan to any Finnish side, in fact, Paul will not be going on loan to any club this summer."

"We expect him to be returning for pre-season training with the rest of the players in early July."

Trajkovski's tragedy ... again!

When Perth Glory pair Rob Trajkovski and Kasey Wehrman ran out to face Wollongong Wolves in the Grand Final, they had the odd distinction of having played in front of the three largest crowds in NSL history.

Four years ago 'Sharpy' and Kasey were part of the Sydney United and Brisbane Strikers teams respectively that played off in the Grand Final witnessed by 40,446 people at Suncorp Stadium. A new NSL record attendance was set that day, one which was smashed at this season's Major Semi-Final 2nd Leg with 42,764 turning up to watch Glory down the Wolves in golden-goal extra-time.

And the pair were again part of history as 43,242 people crammed into Subiaco Oval for a heart-breaking Grand Final.

For Trajkovski (pictured) it was the third time he'd collected a runners-up medal at an NSL Grand Final. In 1996/97 he ended up on the losing side with Sydney United, losing to the Strikers 2-0 in the game that mattered. "The most disappointing final was with Sydney United when we were minor premiers by nine points," he said.

"It's always disappointing to lose a Grand Final but with Sydney United we'd been the best team in the competition for most of the season."

The following season he joined Carlton for their inaugural season, and having battled their way to the

Grand Final, again found himself on the losing side with South Melbourne triumphant 2-1.

But this year's loss must rate as heartbreaking as the Sydney United one. Trajkovski was inconsolable after the game as the numbed Glory squad did a lap of the ground to pay tribute to their loyal supporters.

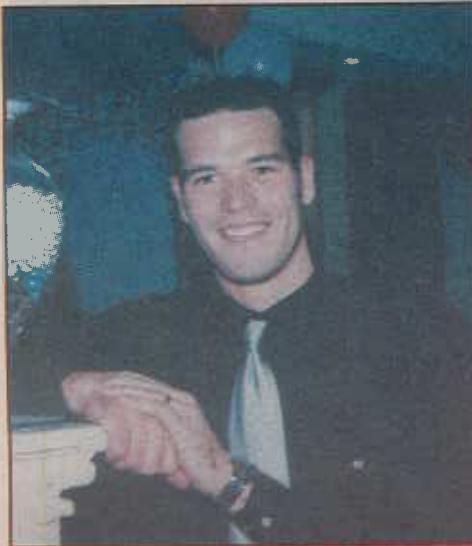
He wandered around Subiaco Oval a good 10 metres behind the rest of the squad, staring fixedly at the ground in disbelief and shrugging off offers of consolation from teammates.

WA Sport and Recreation Minister Norman Moore last week announced that Perth will finally be getting a purpose built soccer stadium.

The 19,000 seat rectangular stadium - with provision to expand to 30,000 when needed - will be finished by early 2002 and will become the new home for Perth Glory as well as a Perth-based rugby team.

The venue will be located on Wellington Street between the Perth Entertainment Centre and the freeway. One of the criticisms of the stadium is the capacity which will initially be limited to 19,000, a decision Moore defended. "If we want very, very big events such as the grand final or a rugby union Test, then we think Subiaco Oval is a very good oval for those large crowds."

"It would be silly to build a 43,000 seat stadium for soccer and fill it once



The Wollongong Wolves presentation evening was in full swing when I got the chance to chat with the hero of the hour Les Pogliacomi. Until then, Stuart Young was still shaking his head saying "amazing", skipper Matt Horsley even managed to sneak the word "Bondage" into his acceptance speech to describe the team spirit of the champions, whilst at the bar a flu ridden Dave Cervinski had convinced us that a vat of Victoria Bitter was the ideal remedy for his aching limbs. Well one thing is for sure, that certainly wasn't the last schooner to be pulled as the celebration spillover lasted long into a chilly Illawarra night.

Love 'em or hate 'em I kid you not penalty shoot-outs invariably produce heroes, villains, and more drama than an entire series of Melrose Place. The sight of an ecstatic scorer or saver swamped by delirious teammates is always contrasted when the masochistic director cuts to the devastated squanderer, all teary eyed and broken hearted.

If your heart bled for poor Jamie Afkos as he stumbled despondently from the scene of his forgivable crime, then the sight of those wonderful Wolves smothering goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi would have given you

two sudden death penalties that, if they scored, it would have been the match, and we still won it. The feeling was that we had done something incredible."

Incredible it certainly was, and the effect on the region of having its first sporting national champions has been equally mind blowing for Pogliacomi. "We went for a game of golf the other day and people were coming up to us saying 'I'm not a soccer fan but that was the best game of sport I have ever seen', they had never seen anything like it, the comeback, the character of the players, so it's pretty special to be part of that for me and for the team.

"It just typifies what we're made of really, it's not always how much money you've got it's the heart you've got, how big it is and what it's made of."

At three down to a seemingly rampant Perth Glory team at half time, a first NSL title for the Illawarra outfit was looking as likely as Jose Chilavert remaining in his penalty area for 90 minutes, but back they came after the break to re-write both Soccer history and Grand Final folklore simultaneously. "I think everybody was pretty dirty with themselves at half-time" the ex-Adelaide City custodian recalled, "we'd played a first forty-five minutes that wasn't what Wollongong is all about, we hadn't defended very well and were trying to force it going forward, we were trying maybe a bit too hard. In the second half, I think everybody just wanted to make amends and George Souris and Mark Robertson, when they came on they were possessed, it was unbelievable the way they played and I think that their performances lifted the whole team.

"This is such a great squad, if the boys didn't get it back to three-three, then we wouldn't have got to a shoot-out and everyone is saying that I'm the hero but no, not at all, it was the most complete team performance you could ever come across."

Earlier in the evening, in between 'amazings', striker Stuart Young had told me of the Wolves players' frustrations in the major semi final two weeks prior, where the huge crowd and sea of Subiaco noise had made communication on the field virtually impossible, but that experience of the big time was obviously a bonus come Grand Final time. "With the first game being at night you don't see the people and it's more intimidating because all you can hear is that noise but being a day game you could see the people."

"Stuart Young and I spoke before the game and said we know what to expect so let's go out there and enjoy it, let's just do it and whatever happens, happens so let it just flow," recalls Pogliacomi.

During our conversation, Pogliacomi had come across as both humble and confident, a great mixture when such instant national exposure threatens to swell even the most down to earth of heads. But he was super-

confident when it was necessary and not only had he brilliantly saved three Glory spot-kicks, he had calmly and authoritatively stroked home one himself.

"Well all year" he told me like another Chilavert moment is about to unfold, "I've been talking about taking a penalty and I practice in training, and even in the few weeks leading up to the game I'd proved to the lads that I could take them. Funnily enough Nick (Theodorakopoulos) and I used to have penalty competitions over money, he used to give me three-to-one odds and I never missed so maybe he knew, he saw that I could take them so when we stopped before the penalty shoot-out Nick said 'are you going to take one' and I said 'Yeah, no worries'".

Whether he dons the Wollongong goalkeeper's jersey or not for season 2000/2001 is in the balance, but for Pogliacomi nothing will take away the memories of that super Sunday when his heroics saved the Wolves, and wherever he plies his obvious talents next season, I doubt if he'll ever have



to shell out for his own drinks in the Fraternity Club again.

A fan's view ...

The mood was buoyant the minute one stepped into the 600 seat auditorium at the Fraternity Bowling & Recreation Club for the Wolves' annual presentation night and understandably so. The Wolves had won their first Championship and everyone wanted to share in that winning feeling, so much so that the number of patrons had doubled from the previous week and the Wolves and Fraternity staff had worked tirelessly overnight to accommodate them all.

Fittingly then, the ceremonies commenced with the GM Graham Haney acknowledging the efforts of Alex Iannella, Alan Walton, Gino Chiodo and Russell and Jo Hochberger with life membership to the Club.

The mayor of Wollongong, The Hon. George Harrison could not praise Nick Theodorakopoulos, Matthew Horsley and the rest of the team and support staff enough for their contribution to the region. While the PR value was great, anybody could see he was genuinely proud. The magnitude of the Wolves' grand final win is hard to put into words because it arouses such emotion for us one-eyed supporters and George was no different, proving politicians are human after all.

The life blood of the Wollongong Wolves himself, Matthew Horsley had earlier received a standing ovation for his stirring address at what it meant to him captaining a side with such heart. You don't have to know Matthew very



long to know how much he deserves all the accolades that are thrown his way, and his tireless contributions to the region's juniors, charities and the club itself has finally been reciprocated in the best way possible.

Nick Theodorakopoulos expressed his own rapture at what bringing the Championship to the region meant, thanking the Board, the support staff, players, sponsors and supporters for their unmitigated efforts and support.

Nick T we salute you all.

For the record, Ben Blake received the Rookie of the Year award while David Cervinski won both the player's player award and player of the Year

award.

Scott Chipperfield, who was absent on Socceroo duty, shared the spoils for the player of the final series with a modest Les Pogliacomi, who didn't hide the fact that he was having all his drinks shouted by both Matthew Horsley and Dino Mennillo!

Formalities gave way to unrestrained celebrations, highlighted by Georgie Souris leading the Wolves cigar smoking choral group in some original compositions describing what it really meant to beat the Perth Glory.

Like their season, the night was an overwhelming success.

Sandro Colantoni (pictured)

goosebumps on your finger nails.

The 24-year-old Pogliacomi, unashamedly in possession of the sharpest side-burns in Soccer, was reveling in the celebrations, and who could blame him. The nerve tingling drama, the ultimate victory, 43,000 Glory nutters, a penalty scored, three saved and now his an instantly recognisable face to all Soccer lovers and first timers alike, I reckon he's had worse weeks in his life.

"We had just pulled off the greatest Houdini act ever" he joked in a way that told me that perhaps it all hadn't quite sunk in yet, "look at it this way, we were three-nil down and then in the shoot-out with Matty (Horsley) missing and Dino (Mennillo) missing they had

Wolves' Awards Night

Even Speight was watching Masi?

With the Coup in Fiji still brewing the NSL Grand Final was a timely distraction for many Fiji sports fans keen to see their idol, Wolves striker Esala Masi.

"Yes everyone knows what happened in Fiji with us. It's a big story although at halftime at 3-0 down I'm told they were turning off their sets" said Masi with his fiance in tow.

"Maybe George Speight was watching, he could learn something!" added Masi, 26, in what was surely the quote of the night.

"Fiji has a few good players like

me, but unless they play outside of Fiji they can't improve too much. Fiji is a small place so everyone knows you. I don't like to make a big deal but I seem to be well-known."

Masi is clearly enjoying playing in a side like Wolves. He likes the attacking soccer played by Nick T and is very much at home on the south coast (he is also expecting a child with his Australian fiance, pictured.)

"I would like to stay here, the lifestyle, everything. Australia is perfect."



"Fiji has a few good players like



Don't Panic!

Wolves' secret to GF 2000 success



By Aidan Ormond

While much talk has been on the cool calm and collected approach Wolves took in turning around the most talked about soccer match since the Iran qualifier, it's fair to say Stuart Young and Alvin Ceccoli lost it after the Grand Final. With the game rating through the roof nationally, the Wolves pair's tears of joy were there for all of Australia to see. For Young, it was a mixture of physical and mental exhaustion.

"The physical exhaustion," he explained with the din of the Wollongong Wolves awards night in the background, "was from the close to 60 games I've played this season in both Australia and Singapore. The mental came from knowing that it (the comeback) was not all in vain because I thought after Les almost saved one, and Matty then missed, that we were gone."

To have got back to such a position speaks volumes for coach Nick Theodorakopoulos' half-time talk. Young agreed. "Nick was calm, made his substitutions. We were all calm. You'd think there would be shouting and finger-pointing but no, we were all very focussed," said Young of what must rank as the best GF comeback in

history.

The Wolves striker (pic left with wife Claire) was also adamant that playing in Perth two weeks earlier helped his side.

"As we're all going out we said 'we've got 45 minutes to put it right.' Looking back though we weren't that bad in the first half. I missed a good chance early and Matty too, but they took their chances in that opening stanza.

"I think we dominated the second half more than they dominated the first half," mused Young.

Alvin Ceccoli recalled the step by step approach to the second half. "Rather than looking at losing 3-0 we focussed on scoring just one goal, then a second and so on."

"Nick got his changes right at halftime. We weren't yelling at each other. None of us felt desperate." Certainly the addition of Burnley's Robertson (pictured) demonstrated both the depth of the squad and the quality of the tigerish midfielder on the biggest of stages.

Ceccoli, who has played in the Greek First Division (scoring one of the goals of the season last year) and represented Australia said this was the greatest feeling of all.

Young also felt Gareth Naven's exclusion in the Glory line-up was a possible mistake. "The tide had turned by the time Naven, who is a real inspiration and a stand-up player, came on.

"I think we all sensed that there

was some confusion with Glory in the second half. 'Do we attack, do we defend?' Whereas with us there was no pressure. We just went out to play."

Young also admitted that he was a "spent force" at the end of 90 minutes. In fact he felt both sides were out for the count in the golden goal extra time.

He also believed that the club's part-time training schedule actually helped the team. "I think it is a myth to a degree that full-time training will automatically make you a better side. I feel we are fresher, particularly as we don't train the day before a game."

"As a result we are free to give it our all. Some players work and some study and I think these are good distractions for them."

"I mean look at young Paul Reid. He had his University exams before the Grand Final yet he scored the third

goal, a penalty in the shootout and had a very energetic game."

Ceccoli agreed, adding that he felt there is not much difference between the full-time and part-time clubs in the league.

Sydney United two years ago is example of this theory. Their Grand Final appearance was made under an even lighter training schedule while some of the full-time NSL outfits failed to fire this season.

I remember interviewing Stuart Young from reserve keeper Daniel Beltrame's home two days after the striker's arrival. Pondering his future he said "well let's see if Australia likes me and how I like Australia."

Well, Young, with wife Clare and baby Jacob, loves Wollongong and Australia. And you get the feeling we've reciprocated.



Bonnyrigg's difficult week ends in smiles

Super League summary for round 24

In Round 24 of the Super League Blacktown City went to a 3-0 half time lead, thanks to goals from Paul Dee, Naoki Imaya and Paul Yates at Central Coast, where the home side was looking, at that stage, on the way to being well beaten by the competition leaders.

The second half was a different story as the Coasties dominated and hit the post twice, then reducing the arrears in the 75th minute from a Peter Ritchie penalty after Nathan Byrn had been upended in the box. The 3-1 win was by no means as convincing a performance, by the finish, as it had been looking earlier in the match by the Demons.

Penrith led from a 12th minute strike by Kaan Davies at Andrews Road Field against Leichhardt Tigers.

The Tigers, however, had a much more productive second half running out 3-1 winners.

Greg Fuchs put a left footed shot from inside the box past Ivan Necevski in the 49th and then an own goal by Anthony Driene, who turned in a low Leichhardt cross, gave the lead to the visitors.

Versatile striker Jason Lal made sure, from the left hand edge of the box, when he curled a right footed shot past the Penrith keeper in the 65th.

Parramatta Eagles were two up at the break at Sutherland. Ben Delicata put the Eagles ahead in the 26th minute with a smart finish to a good build up and then Nicky Joseski added a second one minute later when he picked up a poor clearance and rifled the ball past an exposed Dennes Olla.

Parramatta defender Tom Bazdaric followed up his own fierce shot from an acute angle, on the edge of box, to tuck the ball away at close range when Olla could not hold it cleanly, 13 minutes into the second period. The overworked Sutherland defence then managed to keep it down to 3-0 at the finish.

In the later game at Lynwood Park, Eastern Suburbs, whose home game it nominally was, led Macarthur Rams from two quickly taken goals. Former Ram Jimmy Aschner struck in the 8th minute from 12 yards and eight minutes later Ben Deighan made it 2-0 with a fine shot from outside the box.

Easts have been threatening to do some damage in one of their games, but it was hardly expected to be this one, against the usually well-drilled Macarthur.

Another three second half goals, two to Axel Lorenz and another one to Deighan from a penalty, eventually provided Easts with a morale-boosting 5-0 victory which lifted them above the Rams by one point and also brought the two teams' respective goal difference tallies almost back to level pegging.

The three Super League games on Sunday produced wins for Canterbury 1-0 at Fairfield Bulls and Bonnyrigg 5-2 at Bankstown, with St George staging a late recovery to secure a 2-2 draw at Cromer Park against Manly-Warringah who had been a goal down at half time and turned things around in the second half.

St George had gone ahead with a goal from a header by Terry Palapanis, who escaped suspension after being sent off in his team's Wednesday night game at Blacktown.

When David Kuhn equalised for the Dolphins and then Kelvin Foster scored a

penalty, very early in the second period, things looked grim for the Saints, but late substitute Nick Bolianitis came to their rescue to salvage a point right near the end with a rare goal, stabbing home at the far post in a goalmouth melee.

New Bonnyrigg coach Doug Utjesenovic paid tribute, after his side's 5-2 win, to the man he succeeded, John Turner, for leaving him the well drilled team which played Bankstown off the park. The former Socceroo full back took over the side on Tuesday and admitted that he had spent little time with them before their first game under his care.

Ben Green scored the first and not long before the break Colin Luff added a second, with a third following immediately from David Reid.

The fourth was added with a super goal from Michael Hawrysiuk before Bankstown pulled one back through

It was an exhilarating night's football and a fine advertisement for SuperLeague which now has Blacktown City six points clear of Bonnyrigg White Eagles, with all teams now having three games left to play.

In the First Division derby at Fraser Park the home side come from 2-0 down to win 5-3, but at 4-3 the game was in the balance when opponents Dulwich Hill struck the post and it was only in the dying seconds that Fraser scored their fifth.

Former Crewe Alexander apprentice goalkeeper, Ben Burrows, scored a hat trick for Fraser Park in front of 1,600 at the Sydenham ground under the flight path. The club has recently adopted the new nickname of The Jets and certainly looked the quicker team on this occasion.

Elsewhere in Division One Hajduk Wanderers edged closer to Dulwich with a valuable 2-1 win at Rockdale, stretching their second place advantage as a consequence of the victory to draw within 3 points of the leaders. The two teams were engaged in a similarly close battle for first and second place in Division Two two years ago and the contest is just as intriguing now as it was then.

MSC Liverpool and Ryde City had a 0-0 draw and Hurstville City were beaten 2-1 in Bathurst.

Second Division winners were Mount Druitt 4-0 at Central Coast Lakers, Mount Pritchard 3-0 at Sydney District, Hills United 3-2 at White City and Hakoah 2-1 at Hurstville ZSC.

The Kennard Cup game at Sydney University went the way of the

home side 3-1 over University of NSW, with the hosts claiming the trophy 7-1 on aggregate.

A stoppage time winner from hitherto unknown Frenchman, Frederic Fouad-Onana, on debut, earned First Division Stanmore Hawks an overdue win, 1-0, against Auburn United, at Arlington Oval this afternoon.

He was supplied a cross by another newcomer, 17 year old former NSW Institute player Liam Austin and volleyed home from a tight angle on the right, 10 yards out, to break the deadlock and notch the team's first goal in 270 minutes of football.

At Abruzzi Oval A C United went to a 13th minute lead against the Marshall Soper-led Illawarra Lions, when their prodigal son, Zai Younan, made the most of his first start since returning from Bankstown to steer in a cross from Robert Sacco.

Shane Cevenini added a second in the 35th with a booming shot from 40 yards which cleaned out the cobwebs in the top right corner of the net.

Though the Lions had Steve Kotevski sent off seconds before the break, the home side did not add to their tally, but did hit the post twice in the second half.

The 2nd Division game at Bick Oval was won 2-1 by leaders Greystanes who had to hang on at the end in the face of a strong comeback by home side Belmore Hercules, the side coached a few years ago to the 1st Division double by man of the moment, Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Super League top scorers

MARK HAGGER	BLACKTOWN	22
COLIN LUFT	BONNYRIGG	21
JIMMY ASCHNER	EASTS	17
MATTHEW BORG	FAIRFIELD	16
JOHNNY GHISO	BONNYRIGG	16
STEVE KARAVATAKIS	LEICHARDT	16
ADAM ANDERSON	PARRAMATTA	15
JIM BAKIS	ST GEORGE	13
NIKOLCE JOSESKI	PARRAMATTA	12
JOE BRUNI	LEICHARDT	10
NATHAN BYRN	CEN. COAST	10
MARK HOENSELAARS	FAIRFIELD	8
JASON BENNETT	BLACKTOWN	8

Goce Trposki, but the White Eagles added a fifth from Colin Luff, before another late goal by Iain Macdonald made it a little more respectable for the home side.

In a differed game played last Wednesday at the Gabbie Stadium NSW Super League leaders Blacktown City found St George more than a handful before they finally were able to win 2-1. Saints were behind to a goal from Demons' midfielder Chris Bradley who scorched the turf with a shot through a crowded goalmouth from 20 yards out which somehow caught out keeper Les Bihari, who may have been unsighted.

This goal midway through the first period was followed by a send off for St George defender Terry Palapanis after words had been said to the referee.

St George equalised ten minutes into the second period, after a very bright passage of play had seen them seize the initiative. George Maglis put over a fine cross from the right which allowed Elias Augerinos to rifle home a superb volley on the left of the area 12 yards out from goal.

Maglis was later presented with an excellent chance to give his side the lead, when the keeper could not hold a cross, but sliced his shot inches over the bar with the keeper well off his line.

Both sides also hit the woodwork in the closing stages of a keenly contested game, but with Blacktown struggling to contain the ten men it looked as if a draw might result until the 80th minute.

Paul Dee sent over a free kick to the far post, from deep outside the area on the right.

Jason Connolly managed to sneak in behind the defence and head home the winning goal from an awkward angle.

SUPER LEAGUE SOCCER

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v

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Not quite comeback Coasties

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES 1

Ritchie 75 pen.

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS 3

Dee 8, Imaya 14, Yates 41.

Sunday afternoon at Plum Park, Central Coast.



In a scenario similar to the recent NSL Grand Final, the Demons scored three first half goals, but they did manage to hang on, despite Coast getting one back in the second stanza. It ended 3-1 to the visitors.

Coasties started like they meant business when a good opening move saw Shane Knight shoot just wide after less than two minutes.

Blacktown woke up and from then on it was mainly one way traffic. Paul Dee, running in, fired a shot past Gary Meier from ten metres for his third goal in as many matches.

Coasties then had a five minute period of hope when Knight again finished off a good move but shot straight at Fernando Greco in the Blacktown goals.

Soon after the Demons gained a free kick 25 metres out and Damien Foxe put the ball into the Coasties' penalty area where Damon Langan (playing his 250th match for the Demons) saw his shot well saved by Meier - the ball went to Naoki Imai who made it 2-0.

It seemed all too easy for the Demons as they looked every bit the champion team they are.

Meier was constantly under pressure and pulled off a string of good saves whilst up the other end Greco was trying to keep warn.

When the Coasties did venture out of their own half the back three for Blacktown were dominant - Jason Connelly, Paul Yates and Foxe cut out everything that came their way in an impressive display.

Four minutes before half time the Demons were awarded another free kick just outside the Coasties penalty area. Dee put over the perfect cross Yates sailed high to head past Meier for the third Blacktown goal.

The players returned from the half time and it seemed as if the sides had swapped shirts - it was all the Coasties in the second half.

Peter Preston put Marcus Steele through but Greco was quicker to the ball. Steele then returned the favour, this time to Nathan Byrn, but the result was the same.

Stuart Sontag, Preston and Byrn started to dominate the midfield while Steele, Peter Ritchie and Knight put the previously dominant Blacktown back three under all sorts of pressure.

Greco took over from Meier as the busy 'keeper and brilliantly deflected a goal bound Ritchie shot for a corner.

Sontag then made Greco repeat the effort five minutes later. Byrn then picked up a clearance in the midfield and sped through the defence but was brought down in the penalty area by Foxe. Ritchie sent Greco the wrong way from the resultant penalty kick and the Coasties were back in it!

Ritchie saw a shot hit the post and bounce out and then a shot had goal written all over it but hit the side netting.

Blacktown, sensing that the Coasties might do a 'Wollongong' settled and kept the opposition at bay.

The final whistle came as a great relief to the Demons, whilst the Coasties were left pondering what might have been.

Blacktown had shown the last Coasties home crowd for the season why they were champions elect and the Coasties had shown everybody that they could still mix it with the best despite a disappointing season after such a brilliant start - remember they were on top of the Super League table after five matches.

Stuart Sontag and Ritchie were the best players for the Coasties while Damien Brown and Dee played well for the Demons - and both goalkeepers had great games and neither could be blamed for any of the goals.

CENTRAL COAST COASTIES: Meier, Matthews, Steele, Drysdale, Peatey (Marshall), Knight, Daley, Byrn, Preston (Roper), Ritchie, Sontag.

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: Greco, Connelly, Yates, Foxe, Langan, Imaya (Riches), Dee, Bradley, Brown, Donev, Hagger.

Scorers:

Coasties: Dee 8, Imaya 14, Yates 41.

Demons: Ritchie 75 pen.

Yellows:

Coasties: Matthews, Drysdale, Ritchie.

Blacktown: Foxe, Hagger.

Referee: R. Yousif

Super League Tables

FIRST GRADE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS	24	17	4	3	65	23	42	55
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	24	16	1	7	68	42	26	49
Leichhardt Tigers	24	14	5	5	52	36	16	47
St George Saints	24	12	6	6	45	30	15	42
Parramatta Eagles	24	9	12	3	49	33	16	39
Fairfield Bulls	24	10	4	10	41	37	4	34
Canterbury Marrickville	24	10	2	12	36	46	-10	32
Bankstown City Lions	24	8	7	9	34	35	-1	31
Central Coast Coasties	24	7	8	9	38	38	0	29
Eastern Subs Wanderers	24	8	3	13	43	52	-9	27
Macarthur Rams	24	6	8	10	31	39	-8	26
Penrith Panthers	24	7	5	12	31	53	-22	26
Sutherland Sharks	24	4	3	17	25	70	-45	15
Manly Warringah Dolphins	24	2	8	14	27	51	-24	14

UNDER 21	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CENTRAL COAST COASTIES	24	16	3	5	48	22	26	51
Blacktown City Demons	23	14	5	4	55	26	29	47
Penrith Panthers	24	13	3	8	46	34	12	42
Leichhardt Tigers	24	12	5	7	52	38	14	41
Parramatta Eagles	24	9	7	8	32	29	3	34
Sutherland Sharks	24	9	6	9	49	46	3	33
St George Saints	23	9	4	10	38	41	-3	31
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	24	8	5	11	48	42	6	29
Fairfield Bulls	23	8	5	10	36	43	-7	29
Eastern Subs Wanderers	24	7	6	11	32	51	-19	27
Bankstown City Lions	24	7	5	12	48	56	-8	26
Manly Warringah Dolphins	24	8	2	14	41	54	-13	26
Macarthur Rams	23	7	4	12	28	49	-21	25
Canterbury Marrickville	24	7	4	13	32	54	-22	25

UNDER 18	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
LEICHARDT TIGERS	24	19	2	3	59	28	31	59
Fairfield Bulls	24	18	1	5	50	24	26	55
Parramatta Eagles	24	16	3	5	60	27	33	51
Blacktown City Demons	23	12	8	3	39	20	19	44
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	24	11	5	8	39	33	6	38
Central Coast Coasties	24	10	5	9	47	30	17	35
Macarthur Rams	24	8	8	8	34	34	0	32
Sutherland Sharks	24	8	6	10	33	34	-1	30
Bankstown City Lions	24	9	3	12	36	45	-9	30
Penrith Panthers	24	7	8	9	47	38	9	29
Eastern Subs Wanderers	24	6	6	12	33	58	-25	24
St George Saints	23	4	6	13	29	63	-34	18
Manly Warringah Dolphins	24	5	2	17	24	50	-26	17
Canterbury Marrickville	24	1	3	20	14	60	-46	6

SUPER LEAGUE ROUND 25



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Saturday 24 June

Bonnyrigg W.E. v Manly Warringah - Serbian Centre

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Macarthur Rams v Bankstown City Lions - Lynwood park

Games 7.00pm (1st grade) - 5.00pm (21s) - 3.00pm (18s)

Sunday 25 June

Blacktown City v Sutherland Sharks - Gabbie Stadium

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Penrith Panthers v St George Saints - Andrews Road

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Canterbury M'ckville v Eastern Suburbs - Henson Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s).

Parramatta Eagles v Fairfield Bulls - Melita Stadium

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

Leichhardt Tigers v Central Coast - Lambert Park

Games 3.00pm (1st grade) - 1.00pm (21s) - 11.00am (18s)

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Inside Soccer

DIVISION 1: FIRST GRADE		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dulwich Hill		16	11	4	1	33	16	17	37
Hajduk Wanderers		16	11	1	4	28	16	12	34
Rockdale City Suns		16	9	1	6	35	22	13	28
AC United		16	8	3	5	28	19	9	27
M.S.C. Liverpool		16	6	7	3	22	17	5	25
Fraser Park		16	5	7	4	32	24	8	22
Stanmore Hawks		16	5	6	5	17	18	-1	21
Hurstville City		16	5	5	6	24	23	1	20
Auburn United		16	4	4	8	22	35	-13	16
Illawarra Lions		16	4	3	9	17	26	-9	15
Bathurst '75		16	3	4	9	21	44	-23	13
Ryde City Gunners		16	1	3	12	13	32	-19	6
DIVISION 1: U21's		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AC United		16	10	3	3	62	15	47	33
Hajduk Wanderers		16	9	6	1	47	12	35	33
Ryde City Gunners		16	9	3	4	27	18	9	30
Fraser Park		16	8	5	3	40	19	21	29
Dulwich Hill		16	8	1	7	40	30	10	25
Hurstville City		16	6	4	6	32	17	15	22
Stanmore Hawks		16	5	6	5	34	20	14	21
M.S.C. Liverpool		16	5	6	5	21	19	2	21
Auburn United		16	6	2	8	25	46	-21	20
Bathurst '75		16	5	4	7	25	33	-8	19
Rockdale City Suns		16	4	1	11	18	39	-21	13
Illawarra Lions		16	0	1	15	8	111-103	1	
DIVISION 1: U18's		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
M.S.C. Liverpool		16	12	2	2	47	12	35	38
AC United		16	10	5	1	41	14	27	35
Stanmore Hawks		16	10	3	3	36	9	27	33
Hajduk Wanderers		16	10	3	3	33	12	21	33
Ryde City Gunners		16	10	1	5	41	24	17	31
Rockdale City Suns		16	9	3	4	35	22	13	30
Dulwich Hill		16	6	2	8	19	31	-12	20
Hurstville City		16	6	1	9	18	26	-8	19
Bathurst '75		16	4	2	10	29	32	-3	14
Fraser Park		16	3	4	9	34	32	2	13
Auburn United		16	2	2	12	16	70	-54	8
Illawarra Lions		16	0	0	16	10	75	-65	0
DIVISION 2: FIRST GRADE		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Greystanes		16	12	2	2	43	13	30	38
Mt Pritchard		16	10	1	5	25	16	9	31
Hurstville ZSC		16	9	3	4	29	16	13	30
Mt Druitt Town Rangers		15	8	5	2	31	20	11	29
Sydney University		15	8	2	5	35	21	14	26
Hills United		16	8	0	8	28	23	5	24
Hakoah		15	7	2	6	36	25	11	23
White City		16	6	2	8	34	32	2	20
University Of NSW		16	4	4	8	17	24	-7	16
Belmore Hercules		14	5	1	8	19	30	-11	16
Central Coast Lakers		16	4	1	11	21	41	-20	13
Sydney District		15	0	1	14	11	68	-57	1
Division 2: U21's		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Mt Pritchard		16	11	4	1	42	13	29	37
Hills United		16	10	6	0	48	9	39	36
Sydney University		15	9	5	1	43	20	23	32
Mt Druitt Town Rangers		15	9	3	3	32	19	13	30
Hurstville ZSC		16	9	2	5	33	22	11	29
Greystanes		16	5	5	6	34	20	14	20
Belmore Hercules		14	5	4	5	22	24	-2	19
Central Coast Lakers		16	4	3	9	20	30	-10	15
University Of NSW		16	3	5	8	27	37	-10	14
Hakoah		15	3	4	8	26	39	-13	13
White City		16	1	3	12	22	45	-23	6
Sydney District		15	2	0	13	17	88	-71	6
DIVISION 2: U18's		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Mt Druitt Town Rangers		16	11	5	0	33	8	25	38
Mt Pritchard		16	11	2	3	42	20	22	35
Hurstville ZSC		15	11	0	4	45	16	29	33
Belmore Hercules		15	8	4	3	31	19	12	28
Hills United		16	7	4	5	29	18	11	25
Central Coast Lakers		16	5	6	5	22	22	0	21
Sydney University		14	4	6	4	17	17	0	18
Greystanes		16	5	1	10	20	31	-11	16
University Of NSW		16	4	3	9	21	35	-14	15
Hakoah		15	3	3	9	17	35	-18	12
Sydney District		14	2	2	10	21	48	-27	8
White City		13	1	2	10	16	45	-29	5
DIVISION 3: FIRST GRADE		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Prairiewood United		16	12	3	1	38	13	25	39
Western Sydney Lions		15	9	4	2	25	11	14	31
The Wanderers		15	8	3	4	45	22	23	27
Balmain		15	8	3	4	26	21	5	27
Colo Colo		15	7	2	6	39	28	11	23
Parramatta City		16	6	4	6	31	36	-5	22
Holy Cross Ryde		15	6	2	7	33	32	1	20
Prospect United		16	6	2	8	35	47	-12	20
Nepean District		14	5	3	6	23	25	-2	18
Camden Tigers		15	4	5	6	28	29	-1	17
Liverpool City		16	2	1	13	24	54	-30	7
Trasandinos		14	1	2	11	14	43	-29	5
DIVISION 3: RESERVES		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Balmain		15	11	2	2	51	22	29	35
Nepean District		14	10	2	2	41	16	25	32
Western Sydney Lions		15	9	3	3	47	24	23	30
The Wanderers		15	8	3	4	37	26	11	27
Colo Colo		16	7	4	5	45	32	13	25
Trasandinos		14	8	1	5	32	43	-11	25
DIVISION 4: FIRST GRADE		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Holy Cross Ryde		16	7	3	6	42	35	7	24
Camden Tigers		15	6	2	7	25	22	3	20
Parramatta City		16	6	1	9	40	38	2	19
Prospect United		16	5	3	8	26	35	-9	18
Prairiewood United		16	2	2	12	23	45	-22	8
Liverpool City		16	0	0	16	13	84	-71	0
DIVISION 4: RESERVES		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Kellyville Kolts		16	11	3	2	43	13	30	36
United Eagles		16	11	3	2	37	11	26	36
Granville Greenisland		15	10	0	5	34	25	9	30
Sydney Crescent Star		15	9	1	5	56	32	24	28
Hawkesbury City		15	8	3	4	32	20	12	27
Eastern Creek Pioneers		12	7	0	5	26	17	9	21
Springwood		15	5	3	7	31	28	3	18
Marrickville		14	5	3	6	21	24	-3	18
Auburn Star		15	5	3	7	26	41	-15	18
CSI Schofields		15	3	1	11	20	47	-27	10
Sporting SCC		15	3	0	12	16	45	-29	9
Maroubra United		15	1	2	12	15	54	-39	5
DIVISION 5: FIRST GRADE		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
UTS		15	12	3	0	62	10	52	39
Bossy		16	11	3	2	70	14	56	36
Lithgow Workmen		16	10	1	5	53	26	27	31
Petersham		15	9	3	3	51	13	38	30
Kosciusko		16	8	2	6	44	34	10	26
Fairfield City		13	7	3	3	31	15	16	24
Liverpool Olympic		16	5	1	10	39	43	-4	16
West Sydney Passion		15	4	1	10	38	76	-38	13
Birrong Sports		16	1	2	13	19	76	-57	5
Hinchbrook Chiefs		16	0	1	15	14	114-100	1	
DIVISION 5: U21's		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Petersham		15	12	3	0	51	9	42	39
Liverpool Olympic		16	12	1	3	53	26	27	37
Bossy		16	10	4	2	49	20	29	34
Kosciusko		16	10	3	3	46	32	14	33
Lithgow Workmen		16	7	2	7	38			

YOUTH DIV. 1 - U13						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
Southern Branch	17	14	1	2	71	8 63 43
Rockdale City Suns	16	9	3	4	39	14 25 30
AC United	16	10	0	6	28	16 12 30
Ryde City	16	9	2	5	41	29 12 29
Illawarra Lions	15	9	2	4	36	26 10 29
Blacktown Association	16	9	2	5	26	19 7 29
Hills United	16	8	2	6	29	18 11 26
Hajduk Wanderers	16	8	1	7	20	20 0 25
Nepean Association	16	6	0	10	15	25 -10 18
Stanmore Hawks	16	2	3	11	20	56 -36 9
Mt Pritchard	17	1	2	14	11	47 -36 5
Canterbury Association	15	1	2	12	11	69 -58 5
YOUTH DIV. 1 - U14						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
Hajduk Wanderers	16	11	3	2	25	11 14 36
Illawarra Lions	15	10	3	2	31	8 23 33
Southern Branch	17	10	2	5	41	19 22 32
Blacktown Association	16	9	1	6	44	20 24 28
Nepean Association	16	8	4	4	24	10 14 28
Hills United	16	8	3	5	27	22 5 27
AC United	16	5	6	5	23	24 -1 21
Mt Pritchard	17	5	4	8	17	27 -10 19
Ryde City	16	5	4	7	20	32 -12 19
Canterbury Association	15	3	3	9	13	29 -16 12
Rockdale City Suns	16	2	2	12	16	48 -32 8
Stanmore Hawks	16	1	3	12	11	42 -31 6
YOUTH DIV. 1 - U15						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
Ryde City	16	11	4	1	31	11 20 37
Southern Branch	17	10	6	1	35	17 18 36
AC United	16	10	2	4	42	22 20 32
Mt Pritchard	17	8	2	7	19	19 0 26
Stanmore Hawks	16	8	1	7	26	22 4 25
Hajduk Wanderers	16	6	5	5	26	19 7 23
Illawarra Lions	15	6	5	4	21	16 5 23
Canterbury Association	15	5	2	8	18	27 -9 17
Blacktown Association	16	3	6	7	17	30 -13 15
Rockdale City Suns	16	3	4	9	17	35 -18 13
Hills United	16	2	4	10	11	26 -15 10
Nepean Association	16	1	5	10	13	32 -19 8
YOUTH DIV. 1 - U16						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
AC United	16	12	3	1	35	6 29 39
Illawarra Lions	15	12	2	1	37	12 25 38
Hajduk Wanderers	16	12	1	3	34	11 23 37
Southern Branch	17	10	4	3	31	10 21 34
Blacktown Association	16	8	2	6	32	20 12 26
Hills United	16	6	3	7	21	18 3 21
Ryde City	16	6	3	7	25	25 0 21
Mt Pritchard	17	6	1	10	25	27 -2 19
Stanmore Hawks	16	3	6	7	23	25 -2 15
Nepean Association	16	3	4	9	17	36 -19 13
Canterbury Association	15	1	2	12	12	49 -37 5
Rockdale City Suns	16	1	1	14	13	66 -53 4
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U13						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
Camden Tigers	13	10	3	0	56	9 47 33
Central Coast Lakers	12	10	2	0	49	5 44 32
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	13	9	2	2	31	17 14 29
CSI Schofields	13	7	0	6	34	22 12 21
M.S.C. Liverpool	12	6	2	4	32	16 16 20
Hawkesbury City	13	4	1	8	19	26 -7 13
Parramatta City	13	3	3	7	18	29 -11 12
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	13	3	3	7	16	33 -17 12
Granville Association	13	2	1	10	10	57 -47 7
Hurstville City	13	1	1	11	12	63 -51 4
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U14						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
Camden Tigers	13	11	2	0	34	2 32 35
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	13	9	2	2	53	13 40 29
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	13	8	3	2	43	9 34 27
Hawkesbury City	13	8	1	4	30	18 12 25
Central Coast Lakers	12	6	2	4	33	11 22 20
M.S.C. Liverpool	12	5	1	6	27	20 7 16
CSI Schofields	13	4	2	7	12	20 -8 14
Granville Association	13	2	2	9	13	50 -37 8
Parramatta City	13	1	2	10	7	50 -43 5
Hurstville City	13	1	1	11	6	65 -59 4
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U15						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
Granville Association	13	10	3	0	32	15 17 33
Central Coast Lakers	12	9	2	1	31	11 20 29
M.S.C. Liverpool	12	6	3	3	24	19 5 21
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	13	6	2	5	27	19 8 20
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	13	6	1	6	30	24 6 19
Hawkesbury City	13	5	2	6	30	30 0 17
CSI Schofields	13	5	2	6	25	25 0 17
Camden Tigers	13	4	3	6	16	23 -7 15
Hurstville City	13	2	0	11	11	40 -29 6
Parramatta City	13	1	2	10	13	33 -20 5
YOUTH DIV. 2 - U16						
	P	W	D	L	F	AGD Pts
Parramatta City	13	12	0	1	43	6 37 36
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	13	10	1	2	33	3 30 31
Mt Druitt Town Rangers	13	7	4	2	22	7 15 25
Central Coast Lakers	12	7	2	3	25	15 10 23
Camden Tigers	13	5	3	5	20	17 3 18
Hawkesbury City	13	5	2	6	18	15 3 17
Granville Association	13	3	2	8	12	27 -15 11
M.S.C. Liverpool	12	3	2	7	5	23 -18 11
CSI Schofields	13	0	7	6	12	29 -17 7
Hurstville City	13	0	1	12	6	54 -48 1

NSW RESULTS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE: FIRST GRADE: AC United 2 (Z Younan 13m S Cevolini 35m) Illawarra Lions 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 (F Fouda-Onana 87m) Auburn United 0, Fraser Park 5 (B Burrows 32/41/50m N Cogger 49m D James 90m) Dulwich Hill 3 (E Hristodoulou 26m L Dounis 40m Z Momircevski 80m), Rockdale City Suns 1 (B Kuleski 69m) Hajduk Wanderers 2 (M Abi-Arrage 42m T Pondeljak 93m), M.S.C. Liverpool 0 Ryde City Gunners 0, Bathurst 75 2 (M Rooke 74/86m) Hurstville City 1 (S Kladis 46m). **UNDER 21:** AC United 16 Illawarra Lions 0, Stanmore Hawks 3 Auburn United 3, Fraser Park 3 Dulwich Hill 0, Rockdale City Suns 3 Hajduk Wanderers 1, M.S.C. Liverpool 1 Ryde City Gunners 1, Bathurst 75 2 Hurstville City 1. **UNDER 18:** AC United 3 Illawarra Lions 0 (Win by Forfeit), Stanmore Hawks 3 Auburn United 0, Fraser Park 2 Dulwich Hill 2, Rockdale City Suns 0 Hajduk Wanderers 1, M.S.C. Liverpool 2 Ryde City Gunners 0, Bathurst 75 0 Hurstville City 2.

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO: FIRST GRADE: Hills United 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2, Belmore Hercules 1 Greystanes 2, Sydney University 3 University of NSW 1, Central Coast Lakers 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4, Sydney District 0 Mt Pritchard 3, Hurstville ZSC 1 Hakoah 2, White City 2 Hills United 3. **UNDER 21:** Belmore Hercules 1 Greystanes 1, Sydney University 2 University of NSW 2, Central Coast Lakers 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Sydney District 3 Mt Pritchard 5, Hurstville ZSC 3 Hakoah 0 (Win by Forfeit), White City 2 Hills United 4. **UNDER 18:** Belmore Hercules 4 Greystanes 1, Sydney University 2 University of NSW 1, Central Coast Lakers 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1, Sydney District 2 Mt Pritchard 3, Hurstville ZSC 4 Hakoah 0, White City 1 Hills United 5.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE: FIRST GRADE: Nepean District 2 Prairiewood United 2, Camden Tigers 2 Parramatta City 3, Prospect United 1 Balmain 1, Trasandinos 0 The Wanderers 4, Holy Cross Ryde Colo Colo (Postponed), Western Sydney Lions 2 Liverpool City 1. **RESERVE GRADE:** Nepean District 4 Prairiewood United 1, Camden Tigers 0 Parramatta City 1, Prospect United 0 Balmain 5, Trasandinos 0 The Wanderers 1, Holy Cross Ryde 2 Colo Colo 3, Western Sydney Lions 9 Liverpool City 1.

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR: FIRST GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 1 CSI Schofields 1, Granville Greenisland 5 Sporting SCC 0, Kellyville Kolts 1 Hawkesbury City 0, United Eagles 1 Granville Greenisland 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 2 Maroubra United 0, Marrickville 2 Sporting SCC 0, CSI Schofields 2 Auburn Star 3, Springwood 3 Sydney Crescent Star 0. **RESERVE GRADE:** Kellyville Kolts 4 CSI Schofields 0, Kellyville Kolts 1 Hawkesbury City 0, United Eagles 5 Granville Greenisland 0, Eastern Creek Pioneers 3 Maroubra United 0, Marrickville 2 Sporting SCC 1, CSI Schofields 4 Auburn Star 1, Springwood 1 Sydney Crescent Star 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE: FIRST GRADE: UTS 6 Western Sydney Passion 0, Fairfield City 3 Kosciusko 0, Western Sydney Passion 1 Bossy 7, UTS 3 Lithgow Workmen 1, Liverpool Olympic 14 Hinchinbrook Juniors 0, Birrong Sports 0 Petersham 5. **RESERVE GRADE:** UTS 3 Western Sydney Passion 0 (Win by Forfeit), Fairfield City 0 Kosciusko 1, Western Sydney Passion 0 Bossy 7, UTS 1 Lithgow Workmen 2, Liverpool Olympic 3 Hinchinbrook Juniors 0 (Win by Forfeit), Birrong Sports 0 Petersham 3.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: FIRST GRADE: Manly Warringah Dolphins Central Coast Lakers (Postponed), Macarthur Rams 0 NSW Academy 0, Northern NSW/HAS

Gully still looking good

By Markian Jaworsky

The completion of this round brings the number of games left in the Victorian Premier League down to just four. Green Gully entertained Port Melbourne Sharks with just four points separating themselves from Bentleigh Greens, who have made a late charge at the title.

A win for Green Gully would open up a seven point gap, and put the pressure back onto Bentleigh, playing away to Heidelberg the following night.

At the other end of the table just five points separated the bottom five teams, making for a great finish to this season's Victorian Premier League.

Fresh from Thursday's over-heated match between the LG Socceroos and Paraguay, referee Gerry Connolly was up for the match at Green Gully Reserve.

In a game where Connolly was commended for his handling of the Paraguayans off-ball behavior, Connolly was again on top of the game between Gully and Port Melbourne.

In the twenty-first minute, Zdravko Atanasovski brought down George Tzirtis in the penalty box. Connolly pointed to the spot. Tzirtis had to receive treatment and after a delay, Nick Tsaltas put away the spot kick.

From the re-start, Green Gully hit Port Melbourne on the rebound. Nick Papadopoulos broke free inside the Sharks' penalty area and as he lined up his shot on goal, Port Melbourne's John Pappas brought Papadopoulos down from behind in the classic professional foul.

Connolly did not hesitate to award

Green Gully with the penalty kick, and showed John Pappas the red card.

Zdravko Atanasovski, made up for his earlier foul and placed his penalty perfectly past Port Melbourne's Tony Lytras, who had no chance.

Port Melbourne coach Frank Arok had been forced to change his game plan, and indeed made already his second substitution in the first thirty minutes, replacing Tzirtis for Sash Nicolic.

Port Melbourne's red card had indeed changed the complexion of the game, and Green Gully took full advantage.

On 32 minutes, striker Sash Becvinovski dribbled his way into space near the Port Melbourne penalty area and with the advancing Tony Lytras stranded, Sash Becvinovski ever so delicately chipped the goalkeeper with the ball just bouncing wide past the left hand post.

With a couple of minutes before half-time, Green Gully's Henry Velkovski beat two defenders on the right wing and dribbled his way into the Port Melbourne penalty area, and crossed low for Brandon Vassallo smack bang in front of goal, but the ball bounced up off Brandon's shins, and the golden chance was wasted.

The second half continued where the first left off. Green Gully had the extra man advantage, and always looked the more likely to score.

Sash Becvinovski and Nick Papadopoulos were stand out players. On 50 minutes, Becvinovski turned his marker inside out, but blasted high and wide.

On the hour, it was Becvinovski who completely opened up the Port Melbourne defense, and Nick Papadopoulos was on

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 2

Atanasovski 24(pen), Papadopoulos 60.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 1

Tsaltas 23(pen).

Sunday night at Green Gully Reserve, Kealba. Crowd: 500.

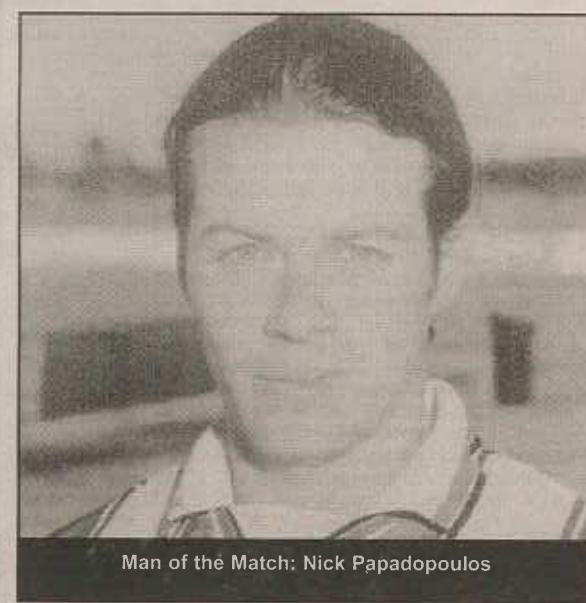


hand to tap in Green Gully's winner.

Frank Arok obviously not happy, and the Port Melbourne faithful were furious with the goal, protesting even after the match that the goal should have been called back for off-side.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS: Watkins, Spiteri, Sevin, Markovski, Atanasovski, Douglas, Georgiadis, Papadopoulos, Vassallo, Velkovski, Becvinovski (Rutkowski 86).

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS: Lytras, Palamaras (Sonsini 13), Watson, Knezevic, Pappas, Tzirtis (Nikolic 30), Pir (Vukosavrevic 70), Tsaltas, Tsolakis, Collina, Poutakidis.



Man of the Match: Nick Papadopoulos

Port Melbourne: Pappas

Best Players:

3. NICK PAPADOPoulos (GREEN GULLY)

2. Sash Becvinovski (Green Gully)
1. Zdravko Atanasovski (Green Gully)

Referee: Gerry Connolly

Yellows:

Green Gully: Savigos

Port Melbourne: Pappas

Red:

Melrose hitting form in Bill Turner Cup

LG BILL TURNER CUP

ROUND 3:

J. Wycliffe Christian 3 St Clair 2
St Dominics 8 Colo 0
Birrong Boys 2 Condell Park 1
DLS Ashfield 3 Delany College 0
Toormina 4 C. McCauley 1
Wingham 1 Taree 0
Port Macquarie 6 Wauchope 0
Cessnock 4 Mount View 1
St Josephs Lochinvar 2 St Peters Maitland 1
Lambton 2 Merewether 1
Francis Greenway 3 Wallsend 1
Belmont 8 Whitebridge 0
Notre Dame Shepparton 3 Albury 0
Kooringal 3 Cootanundra 1
Holy Spirit Bellambi 3 Keira 0
Mackay North 4 Mirani 1
Nambour 7 Coolum 3
Trinity College 6 Rivermont 1

ROUND 4:

Epping Boys 4 Narrabeen Sports 2
Menai 3 DLS Caringbah 2
Westfield Sports 3 Cabramatta 0

Armidale 2 Gunnedah 0
St Augustines Cairns 4
St Marys Cairns 0
Kirwan 2 Ignatius Park 1
Mackay North 7 Blackwater 0
St Pats Shorncliffe 1 Morayfield 0
Padua 3 Dakabin 0
Redbank Plains 3 Westside Christian 2
Corinda 3 Kelvin Grove 0
Clairvale McKillop 3
Shailer Park 1
Trinity Catholic 2 Beaudesert 1
Palm Beach Currumbin 6
Helensvale 0

BILL TURNER TROPHY GIRLS 15 YEARS

ROUND 2

Colyton 1 Bede Polding College 0
Blacktown Girls 3 Quakers Hill 1
Port Hacking 2 Cronulla 0
Kirrawee 1 Menai 0
Richmond River 3 Lismore 2
Kingscliff 2 Southern Cross 0
Kooringal 2 Albury 1

By Andrew Barnett

After a couple of years of early exits Melrose High had to start off with an away game to Chris Conti's Kambah side in the Qualifying Round.

The 9-2 win showed the side had a promising attack but an inexperienced defense. In the next round Melrose played Lanyon who were coached by John Mantinaos.

Complacency by the Melrose side saw the fast starting Lanyon side two goals up after ten minutes. But within another fifteen minutes Melrose struck back with 3 goals to be 3-2 at half time. In the second half it was end to end stuff with the final score of Melrose winning 6-3.

The third round saw another home game for Melrose, this time against MacKillop College. In this game Melrose fired up straight away and went on to win 7-0. MacKillop College played well but it was just one of those games where Melrose scored some great goals when the opportunities arose. Melrose keeper Elliot Duncan also made some great saves in goal to keep the opposition scoreless.

In the Quarter-Finals Melrose were matched against Bateman's Bay, the winners of the South Coast area. The boys were excited by the idea of going down to the coast and so last Friday we trooped down there.

Playing at lunch-time the Bateman's Bay students were out in force to support their team and they certainly dominated the

first ten minutes but Melrose soaked up the pressure.

Against the run of play Melrose took the lead with a great individual goal by our leading scorer Mark Nedeljkovic.

Bateman Bay continued to press our defense but great work by Neil Punjer and Matt D'Aquino held back the attacks. Elliot Duncan (goalie) played a blinder and won man of the match award with some marvelous saves. Just before half-time Mark Nedeljkovic repeated his solo run to score another goal.

The second half saw the Melrose midfield start to dominate and the attacks by both teams were being broken up by great defense. Twice the Melrose defense cleared the ball off the goal-line. The final goal came in 45th minute when Sahin Ozgul hit a hard drive at the edge of the penalty into the top right-hand corner.

Darren Maddigan was the best player for Bateman's Bay with great runs up the middle and he was very popular with the crowd.

Melrose missed two other chances to increase the score with a missed penalty and open goal chance but the final score remained Melrose 3 Bateman's Bay 0.

In four matches Melrose have scored 25 goals and reached the area semi-finals being played today (Tuesday).

Find out the semi final and final results in next week's edition of Inside Soccer.

Phoenix rising up the VPL ladder

ST ALBANS SAINTS 0

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 3

Donnelly 21, 70, Papadopoulos 24.

Sunday afternoon at Churchill Reserve, St Albans.



By Mark Fisher

It has to be said - St Albans have had a horror run on and off the park over the last five weeks. Coach Mick Petersen's surprise departure has coincided with some pretty depressing results for the Saints, despite the club fielding a promising lineup by VPL standards this season.

Take nothing away from Altona East though, who have battled hard to become one of the season's premiership chasers behind Gully and Bentleigh. It was hard to spot a Phoenix player who didn't put his hand up in this convincing victory for the visitors.

Two goals in the first half gave Altona East a winning margin, which they consolidated upon in the second half with a further goal courtesy of both pressure and one the worst goalkeeping blunders seen all year.

Whilst the surface of the pitch looked uneven and undulating in places, the visitors still managed to string a useful play together within the opening minute. Man-of-the-match Steven Bartol in the centre fed the ball to forward Paul Donnelly who roamed down the right.

Donnelly sent a good first up cross to Robert Troise at the far post, whose uncontrolled volley looped in the air for Saints goalkeeper Mario Vunderl to claim without too much trouble.

Altona East's eagerness showed in a number of early flourishes. In the 21st minute they converted effort into reward, when Daniel Genovesi picked off a poor defensive pass from Ilija Rados.

He duly fed free man Paul Donnelly with a delivery to his left, and Donnelly shot decisively past the diving Vunderl.

The ball slipped just inside the right post to give the Phoenix a one-goal advantage.

As soon as that one went in, Altona East looked to maintain the pressure. Barely three minutes later, Donnelly made the most of poor covering from the Saints' defenders. He edged to within 20 metres of the area and squared the ball to an unmarked Nick Papadopoulos on the right. He in turn immediately unleashed a bullet that deflected off Martin Raspudic and whizzed past the badly beaten Vunderl for another goal for the visitors.

Ross Antoniadis was having blinder in marking Ivan Zilic out of the match, yet Zilic was at least able to win a free kick after being bumped over by Antoniadis near the by-line. Ilija Dragicevic's delivery from the right indeed found Zilic well positioned at the far post, yet the striker could do little more than flick his header well wide of goal.

St Albans had to increase their work-rate if they were going to match the Phoenix in the middle, but as soon as the pressed forward they looked badly exposed at the back.

Making matters worse, their midfield didn't look terribly interested in chasing as Altona East inevitably surged forward on the counter. In one particular instance, the Phoenix had four attackers lining as target men inside the area to the Saints two defenders plus the goalie!

The constant application of holding up the ball and criss-cross passing suggested two goals would not be enough for Peter Ollerton's men. St Albans handed Altona East a third goal on a relish-topped plate in the 70th minute when Vunderl, after receiving a back-pass from Martin Raspudic, all-too-easily dribbled the ball from one side of the penalty area to the other as both Donnelly and Genovesi bore down.

Genovesi stuck out a boot to dislodge the ball from Vunderl's possession, offering Donnelly the easiest of



Saints' Damian Vojtek.

tap-ins from the edge of the 6 yard box.

The Phoenix finished the game full of running, and had Raspudic not beat Daniel Genovesi to a delightful cross from Frank Valentich in the 86th minute, the score could have been somewhat more embarrassing for the Saints.

ST ALBANS: Vunderl, Raspudic, Rados, Sianidis, Vojtek, Dragicevic, Hrehoresin (Tudor), Movric (Benac), Razov, Zilic (Jurjevic), Urlovic

ALTONA EAST: Frangos, Antoniadis R, Dimitrelos (Davis), De Amicis, Valentich, Troise (Papadopoulos E), Donnelly, Antoniadis T, Bartol (Novaceski), Papadopoulos N, Genovesi

Best Players:

- 3 - BARTOL (ALTONA EAST)
- 2 - Antoniadis R (Altona East)
- 1 - Donnelly (Altona East)

Referee: Jim Oulians

VPL RESULTS

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 1

(Alagiozidis I)

FAWKNER BLUES 2

(Psarros P, Murphy C)

ALTONA MAGIC 1

(Petrevski Z)

PRESTON LIONS 3

(Sapazovski J, Kutlesovski I (2)),

ST. ALBANS SAINTS 0

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX 3

(Donnelly P (2), Papadopoulos),

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 2

(Atanasovski (pen), Papadopoulos)

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS 1

(Tsaltas pen)

RESERVES:

Oakleigh Cannons 2	Fawkner Blues 2
Altona Magic 5	Preston Lions 2
St. Albans Saints 3	Altona East 2
Green Gully 1	Port Melb. 1

PLAYING MONDAY NIGHT:

HEIDELBERG UNITED v BENTLEIGH GREENS

MELBOURNE RAIDERS v BULLEEN ZEBRAS

FIRST GRADE

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

BENTLEIGH GREENS

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX

PRESTON LIONS

BULLEEN ZEBRAS

ALTONA MAGIC

ST. ALBANS SAINTS

FAWKNER BLUES

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

HEIDELBERG UNITED

MELBOURNE RAIDERS

P W D L F A P

18	11	5	2	3	4	15	38
17	9	4	4	26	18	31	
18	9	3	6	26	24	30	
18	7	5	6	27	23	26	
17	7	4	6	25	23	25	
18	6	7	5	22	23	25	
18	6	6	6	27	27	24	
18	5	7	6	21	19	22	
18	4	6	8	27	33	18	
18	3	8	7	27	37	17	
17	4	4	9	23	33	16	
17	3	5	9	20	30	14	

P W D L F A P

18	11	5	2	5	20	38	
18	9	4	5	39	33	31	
17	9	2	6	45	25	29	
18	8	5	5	45	43	29	
16	7	4	5	46	31	25	
18	6	6	6	35	34	24	
18	6	6	6	36	41	24	
17	6	4	7	28	30	22	
18	5	6	7	38	40	21	
18	5	5	8	28	48	20	
17	3	6	8	30	50	15	
17	2	3	12	17	47	9	

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

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ROUND NINETEEN

Friday 23 June

Port Melbourne v Melbourne Raiders - SS Anderson Reserve
8.15(First Grade)/6.15 (Reserves)

Sunday 25 June

Bulleen Zebras v Heidelberg United - Veneto Club
3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)

Bentleigh Greens v St Albans Saints - Kingston Heath SC
3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)

Altona East Phoenix v Altona Magic - Paisley Reserve
3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)

Preston Lions v Oakleigh Cannons - B.T. Connor Reserve
3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)

Fawkner Blues v Green Gully Cavaliers - C.B. Smith Reserve
3.00(First Grade)/1.00 (Reserves)

CRAZY JOHN'S VICTORIA RESULTS

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1: Firsts: Rd 12: Essendon 2 (Di Vito R, Spence R) Doncaster Rovers 0, Westgate 3 (Spiteri D (3)) Westvale 1 (Goutzioulis A), Frankston Pines 4 (Lewis C (2), Leopold K, Greco C) Spring, White Eagles 2 (Cohadzic S, Lorenzo M), Western Suburbs 2 (Bacak B (2)) Richmond 1 (Silva G), Sunshine Georgies 0 South Dandenong 1 (Gen J), Yarraville Glory 1 (Maglovski D) Lalor United 1 (Dimitrovski K)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1: Reserves: Rd 12: Essendon 3 Doncaster Rovers 1, Westgate 3 Westgate 2, Frankston Pines 1 Spring, White Eagles 2, Western Suburbs 3 Richmond 1, Sunshine Georgies 0 South Dandenong 2, Yarraville Glory 1 Lalor United 1

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW: Firsts: Rd 12: Satellite City Ro's 3 (Zogogiannis B, Cilek I, Hulusi S) Diamond Valley Utd 0, Fitzroy City 2 (Jugovic D, Mihajlović M) Geelong 2 (Bosevski N, Stojanovski S), Whittlesea Stallions 4 (Giuliano A, Ekici D, Rajic Z (2)) Altona City 0, Nth Geelong Warriors 8 (Besei D, Muhic M (4), Marino R (3)) Melbourne City 3 (Barboza S, Romero V (2)), Moreland City 1 (Ristevski S) Werribee City 4 (Jablonski M, Schiaffone M, Sammartino A (2)), North Coburg United 1 (Uyanik A) Northcote City 2 (Senoz H, Grigorakis D)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 NW: Reserves: Rd 12: Satellite City Ro's 2 Diamond Valley Utd 0, Fitzroy City 6 Geelong 2, Whittlesea Stallions 2 Altona City 2, Nth Geelong Warriors 2 Melbourne City 1, Moreland City 1 Werribee City 0, North Coburg United 2 Northcote City 3

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 SE: Firsts: Rd 12: East Richmond 3 (Palatides C (2), Glingordu A) South Wantirna 2 (Carlaganis N, Mihelakitis V), Springvale City 1 (Rosa A) Cranbourne Comets 2 (Terek D (2)), Stonnington City 1 (Vejovic P) Frankston Strikers 3 (Black R, White D (2)), Ringwood City 3 (Nyhoff J, Sims P (2)) Kingston City 1 (Pliatsiaris D), South Springvale 2 (Ismailoglu M (2)) Knox City 1 (Greenwood A), Croydon City Arrows 0 Old Scotch Waverley 1 (Rudzki A)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 SE: Reserves: Rd 12: East Richmond 1 South Wantirna 1, Springvale City 1 Cranbourne Comets 2, Stonnington City 0 Frankston Strikers 2, Ringwood City 3 Kingston City 3, South Springvale 1 Knox City 1, Croydon City Arrows 3 Old Scotch Waverley 2

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 NW: Firsts: Rd 12: Sunbury United 1 (Gatt D) North City Lions 2 (Giordano A, Romero C), Laverton Park 1 (Carlos E) Bell Park 1 (Davidson S), Geelong Rangers 1 Pascoe Vale 2 (Nikolovski R (2)), Corio 1 (Biscan I) Lalor 0, Williamstown 1 (Letteri A) Keilor Park 2 (Zafferao V, Feretis N), Croxton Park 5 (Loic E, Femic E, Hibic S, Redzepovic A, Cehic V) Melton 1 (Rutherford-G)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 NW: Reserves: Rd 12: Sunbury United 0 North City Lions 4, Laverton Park 0 Bell Park 4, Geelong Rangers 0 Pascoe Vale 1, Corio 3 Lalor 1, Williamstown 0 Keilor Park 2, Croxton Park 1 Melton 2

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 SE: Firsts: Rd 12: Chelsea 1 (Lumanovski B) Morwell Pegasus 2 (White R, Koppen J), Keysborough 0 Endeavour United 1 (Montoya J), Sandringham City 3 (Livingstone A (2), Whitton R) Clifton Hill United 3 (Hinoporus G (2), Sajkie M), Nunawading City 1 (Hagiegiou M) Seaford United 0, Banyule City 1 (Ivanusic J) Lyndale United 0, Langwarrin 1 (Duff M) Mooroolbark 1 (Findlay A)

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 3 SE: Reserves: Rd 12: Chelsea 0 Morwell Pegasus 5, Keysborough 6 Endeavour United 2, Sandringham City 4 Clifton Hill United 0, Nunawading City 2 Seaford United 1, Banyule City 2 Lyndale United 4, Langwarrin 3 Mooroolbark 2

2000 PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1: Firsts: Rd 12: Riversdale 2 (Sipos P, Kara P) Brunswick City 2 (Kyriopoulos N), Sydenham Park 0 Nth Sunshine Eagles 2 (Huseyin D, Muscat S), Clayton 7 (Pansino F, Maruca S, Quadara E, Aydogan S (2), Serapiglia M, Tartaglia M) Springvale Condors 0, Elwood City 1 (Barbosa I), Hoppers Crossing 1 (Russell J), Templestowe Eagles 0 Doveton 2 (Davidson M, Lee D), Mitcham United 2 (Budd M, Blakemore P) Monbulk 3 (Stanisic G, Tapai M, Middleton S)

2000 PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIV 1: Reserves: Rd 12: Riversdale 0 Brunswick City 2, Sydenham Park 3 Nth Sunshine Eagles 0, Clayton 10 Springvale Condors 1, Elwood City 0 Hoppers Crossing 1, Templestowe Eagles 1 Doveton 3, Mitcham United 1 Monbulk 2

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 NW: Firsts: Rd 12: Ballarat 4 (Duggan M, Karamatis N, Armstrong L (2)) Broadmeadows United 2 (Derin S, Koc E), Keon Park 1 (Rousalis T) Darebin United 0, South Yarra 0 Glenroy 3 (Knezevic V, Candido J, Mirt Z), Somerton City 3 (Ozen E (2), Boi S) Whittlesea United 0, Moreland United 3 (Youshka I (2), Gorgis Y) Melbourne University 1 (Jeremic L), Uni. Of Melbourne 0 Mill Park 4 (Mouts N, Dimovski L, Charalambous P, Hassan W)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 NW: Reserves: Rd 12: Ballarat 0 Broadmeadows United 1, Keon Park 0 Darebin United 1, South Yarra 1 Glenroy 4, Somerton City 3 Whittlesea United 2, Moreland United 4 Melbourne University 1, Uni. Of Melbourne 2 Mill Park 0

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 S/E: Firsts: Rd 12: Ashburton 3 (Mitsikas P, Huigloot T, Galleguillos F) Braeside United 0, Brandon Park 3 (Delikahya R, Kahrebi B, Arzadian A) South Caulfield 0, Waverley Wanderers 2 (Nicovski R) Dandenong 0, Noble Park United 0 Dandenong Inter 0, Newborough/Yallourn 3 (Stansbury M, Romano A, Hodgkinson D) North Caulfield 1 (Zolotarev Y), Heatherton United 0 Dingley City 3 (Sagizi H (2), De Sovali M)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 2 S/E: Reserves: Rd 12: Ashburton 1 Braeside United 0, Brandon Park 3 South Caulfield 2, Waverley Wanderers 2 Dandenong 1, Noble Park United 5 Dandenong Inter 2, Newborough/Yallourn 3 North Caulfield 0, Heatherton United 2 Dingley City 0

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 NW: Firsts: Rd 12: West Preston 0 Brimbank 5 (Tomic Z (2), Calandrelli M (2), Mihajevic I), Keilor United 2 (Iannuzzo P, Lakic B) Watsonia Heights 1 (Popovski A), Northern United 3 (Jokanovic S, Tripunovski R, Nedelkov R) Brimbank City 1 (Celikovic M), Flemington Falcons 6 (Plizzo C, Pizzo J, Fato A, Zouzounis T, Torcaso A) Western Eagles 1 (Gorczyński P), Ascot Vale 2 (Barakat A, Mejia J) Preston South 2 (Paunkoski T (2)), Meadow Park 0 New South Port Utd 1 (Temkin A)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 NW: Reserves: Rd 12: West Preston 1 Brimbank 2, Keilor United 3 Watsonia Heights 1, Northern United 7 Brimbank City 2, Flemington Falcons 1 Western Eagles 1, Ascot Vale 2 Preston South 2, Meadow Park 1 New South Port Utd 0

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 S/E: Firsts: Rd 12: Beaumaris 2 (O'Dell A (2)) Old Melbournians 1 (Collier S), Noble Park 1 (Banabals G) Endeavour Hills 1 (Butrago J), Berwick Kings 3 (Djikic N, Adamovic D (2)) La Trobe University 1 (Papagiantsis K), Monash University 1 (Apostoleopoulos P) Parkmore 1 (Bago D), Old Camberwell Gramm 0 Rowville Eagles 1 (Horj I), Thornbury United 0 Collingwood City 2 (Vithoulkas A, Tsaliidis S)

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE 3 S/E: Reserves: Rd 12: Beaumaris 2 Old Melbournians 1, Noble Park 3 Endeavour Hills 2, Berwick Kings 2 La Trobe University 1, Monash University 4 Parkmore 0, Old Camberwell Gramm 2 Rowville Eagles 1, Thornbury United 2 Collingwood City 0

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 1:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SOUTH DANDENONG	12	11	0	1	40	11	33
ESSENDON	12	9	1	2	25	11	28
LALOR UNITED	12	7	2	3	21	14	23
FRANKSTON PINES	12	7	1	4	29	23	22
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	7	1	4	22	18	22
WESTVALE	12	6	3	3	33	22	21
YARRAVILLE GLORY	12	4	2	6	17	24	14
RICHMOND	12	3	1	8	12	26	10
SPRING. WHITE EAGLES	12	2	3	7	11	20	9
WESTGATE	12	3	0	9	16	33	9
DONCASTER ROVERS	12	2	2	8	21	31	8
SUNSHINE GEORGIES	12	3	0	9	11	25	6

RESERVES

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SOUTH DANDENONG	12	9	2	1	29	10	29
ESSENDON	12	9	0	3	41	19	27
RICHMOND	12	7	3	2	31	18	24
FRANKSTON PINES	12	6	2	4	25	14	20
DONCASTER ROVERS	12	6	2	4	21	16	20
WESTGATE	12	6	1	5	22	21	19
SPRING. WHITE EAGLES	12	5	1	6	22	30	16
WESTERN SUBURBS	12	5	0	7	28	28	15
SUNSHINE GEORGIES	12	6	0	6	18	23	15
YARRAVILLE GLORY	12	3	2	7	21	38	11
WESTVALE	12	2	1	9	10	27	7
LALOR UNITED	12	0	2	10	7	31	2

CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE 2 N/W:

FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FITZROY CITY	12	9	2	1	39	11	29
WHITTLESEA STALLIONS	12	9	2	1	27	13	29
NORTH COBURG UNITED	12	9	0	3	23	13	27
SATELLITE CITY ROVERS	12	7	4	1	27	9	25
NORTHCOTE CITY	12	5	3	4	24	18	18
GEELONG	12	4	5	3	17	14	17
NORTH GEELONG	12	4	3	5	33	23	15
DIAMOND VALLEY UNITED	12	3	3	6	12	22	12
MORELAND CITY	12	4	0	8	21	33	12
WERRIEE CITY	12	2	3	7	21	34	6
MELBOURNE CITY	12	1	3	8	16	38	6
ALTONA CITY	12	1	0	11	14	46	0

RESERVES

RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SATELLITE CITY ROVERS	12	9	2	1	35	13	29
DIAMOND VALLEY UNITED	12	9	1	2	40	16	28
FITZROY CITY	12	8	2	2	36	18	26
WHITTLESEA STALLIONS	12	7	2	3	40	16	23
NORTHCOTE CITY	12	7	1	4	31	27	22
MORELAND CITY	12	7	0	5	26	21	21
NORTH COBURG UNITED	12	5	1	6	37	24	16
NORTH GEELONG	12	3	2	7	21	43	11
MELBOURNE CITY	12	3	1	8	22	34	10
GEELONG	12	2	1	9	20	42	7
ALTONA CITY	12	2	2	8	22	51	5
WERRIBEE CITY	12	2	1	9	13	38	4

Top four stay the same while Metro stars

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Adelaide Blue Eagles	18	15	1	2	52	14	38	46
Croydon Kings	18	13	0	5	44	20	24	39
Modbury	18	13	0	5	30	25	5	39
Port Lion	18	12	1	5	38	18	20	37
Elizabeth City	18	7	4	7	27	25	2	25
Campbelltown City	18	8	1	9	26	28	-2	25
Raiders	18	7	1	10	23	29	-6	22
Adelaide City	18	5	4	9	25	30	-5	19
White City Warriors	18	5	2	11	12	26	-14	17
Metro Stars	18	4	4	10	21	39	-18	16
Cumberland United	18	4	3	11	15	30	-15	15
West Torrens Birkalla	18	2	5	11	15	42	-27	11

STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic FC	18	14	4	0	52	13	39	46
Para Hills Knights	18	10	5	3	45	20	25	35
Northern Demons	18	10	4	4	39	24	15	34
Port Pirie City	18	9	5	4	37	28	9	32
Western Strikers	18	7	8	3	33	27	6	29
Adelaide Cobras	18	9	2	7	34	31	3	29
Salisbury United	18	9	1	8	30	32	-2	28
Noarlunga United	18	7	1	10	30	41	-11	22
Enfield City	18	5	6	7	33	33	0	21
Adelaide Hills	18	4	4	10	29	43	-14	16
Seaford	18	2	1	15	13	50	-37	7
Panthers	18	1	1	16	16	49	-33	4

By Donald Campbell OAM and Margaret Bowden

Once again the status quo at the top of the Premier League ladder was maintained, top side Blue Eagles, second placed Croydon Kings, third placed Modbury Jets and fourth placed Port Lion all winning again.

With only four rounds left, the battle is on for the fifth play-off spot. Only three points separate Elizabeth City Rams, Campbelltown Red Devils and Raiders.

At the bottom Metro Stars grabbed a lifeline in the relegation battle with a surprise defeat of Campbelltown. Last season's champions Cumberland fell to second bottom, while 1998 champions Birkalla remain firmly rooted in last place.

Adelaide City were no match for the Blue Eagles, going down 0-2. Michael Brooks set up Marcin Kiernan for the first goal in the 14th minute of the first half, then, ironically, in the 14th minute of the

they went down 1-2 to the very smooth Modbury Jets.

Steve Townley equalised five minutes later, then Duane Dobson, a hot tip for the Premier League Player of the Year, scored a brilliant goal to give the Jets another three points. Foxes' keeper Matt Peace was sent off, leaving them vulnerable for next week's clash with relegation rival Metro Stars.

Birkalla, under the guidance of stand-in coach Greg Mills, again went down 1-4, this time to awesome Port Lion Pirates. Such is the depth of talent at Port Lion that coach Michael Barnett kept two ex-NSL players - Peter Mihailopoulos and Billy Misailidis - on the bench!

The Pirates went two nil up in the first half and doubled the score in the second. Sordillo, Harley, Stavridis and Antoniou scored for the Pirates, while Musolino netted to give Birkalla a touch of respectability.

Metro Stars sprung the shock of the

Swan IC's win ideal tonic for coach Eric Williams

By Mike Hennessy

In yet another tense afternoon of soccer in Perth Swan IC hung on to top position in the Cellular One Premier League by beating Perth 1-0 at Dorrien Gardens.

In ideal sunny conditions and a near perfect pitch this should have been a high scoring game. An inspirational display by Swan goalkeeper, Cory Hugo, kept Perth pointless in a game they should have won.

After a tentative start both teams settled down to play some attractive soccer without being able to extend either goalkeeper. Like his South American counterparts Hugo was off his line cutting off dangerous through balls and centres. It was the 28th minute before he had to make a save and an easy one at that.

Perth continued to do most of the attacking and Mark Pottier was blocked at the last moment. Hugo was there again this time punching clear. He did provide the one moment of panic for Swan in the 35 minute when he raced to make a last-ditch clearance and injured his ankle leaving an unguarded goal but Perth were unable to take advantage.

Play swung to the other end. Chris Perks took the ball from defence slipped it out to the right. A cross to the near post saw Justin Hugo rising above the defence to head home to give Swan a 1-0 lead.

Robbie Scarparolo in the Perth goal must have felt the injustice of it all.

It was not until the second minute of the second half that he was forced to make a save.

It was Hugo at the other end who continued with the all-star performance.

He made a spectacular save from David Onoforo's low shot then punched away a dangerous high ball.

Swan caught Perth on the counterattack and Nigel Aubin headed just wide.

He was then unlucky when he broke through the centre

to beat Scarparolo with a fine shot that came back off the underside of the crossbar.

Perth, however, were soon back in attack but having difficulty with that final ball. When eventually it came from Mark Pottier Jamie Coyne put his shot well wide. Onoforo went racing through on the right to be brought down by Hugo who earned a yellow card for his trouble. Worse was to follow for Swan. Anthony Jones was guilty of a reckless tackle. Already on a yellow he was given his marching orders by referee, Lou Prospero.

From the resultant free kick Hugo was again in action to save well.

With the extra man Perth were doing most of the attacking. Craig Naven weaved his way through only to have his shot blocked. Adrian Caceres then shot feebly wide when put through. Naven continued his surging runs forward and a fine centre from him was punched away by an airborne Hugo.

It was all Perth. A well-worked move ended with Pottier shooting high and wide. Coyne came closest to equalising when his shot hit the post but then he shot wide twice in subsequent attempts. Pottier then did likewise as Perth squandered their chances. Through it all the Swan defence never lost its composure and there was always Hugo there to inspire his team.

In the end a delighted Swan team celebrated a hard-earned win that would have delighted coach Eric Williams. News from the UK of his mother's death just prior to the game meant an immediate flight out of Perth. A one minute silence was observed before the start of the game.

In other games Fremantle remained level on points with Swan when they thrashed ECU Joondalup 4-0. Western Knights kept pace two points behind the leaders with a win-

Demons a 2 point buffer on fourth placed Port Pirie City. Gaudio and Musci did the damage for Demons, while Rossi put the ball in the net for the Panthers.

Port Pirie City uncharacteristically dropped two points at home, surprisingly only managing a 1-1 draw with their much lower-placed opposition Enfield City. Both goals came in the first half, leaving the teams to slog out the second for no reward. Locke scored for Pirie while Abraham put the ball in the net for Enfield.

Western Strikers also managed only a 1-1 draw at home to Adelaide Hills Hawks. Had they won, the Strikers would have jumped into fourth place. It was all Strikers in the first twenty minutes, but the Hills defended grimly.

Piekarski took advantage of a keeping error in the 35th minute to put the home side a goal up. The Hills hit back in the second half, consistent scorer Simon Wegener netting on the counter attack. Strikers missed four open chances to wrap up the game in the final ten minutes, but had two shots cleared off the line, saw one hit the post, and miskicked another.

Noarlunga went down 2-3 to Cobras in a see-saw match in which Noarlunga's Justin Marsh had the dubious honour of scoring for both teams! Noarlunga went two-nil up through Marsh and Barry Higham, then the unlucky Marsh scored an own goal to make it 2-1 at the break. The Cobras came out shooting in the second half, C. Karitevlis and Skoumbros both scoring from deflections to give the visitors three points.

Salisbury continued their late charge for finals contention with a convincing 3-0 win over second placed Seaford at home. Prolific scorer Elliott again got on the scoresheet twice, with Robson chiming in for the home side's third.

Seaford, which has struggled for players over the past three seasons, can only look forward to better things next year. There could be an interesting movement of players if both Cumberland and Birkalla are relegated.

CELLULAR ONE PREMIER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE:

ECU Joondalup 0
Sorrento 1
Perth 0
Bayswater 0
Western Knights 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Swan	11	7	3	1	26	10	16	24
Fremantle	11	8	0	3	26	13	13	24
Western Knights	11	7	1	3	24	18	6	22
Inglewood	11	6	1	4	17	9	8	19
Perth	11	5	3	3	23	11	12	18
Ashfield/Bunbury	11	6	0	5	21	15	6	18
Floreat Athena	11	5	1	5	22	25	-3	16
Cockburn	11	5	0	6	18	23	-5	15
ECU Joondalup	11	4	1	6	18	21	-3	13
Sorrento	11	4	1	6	21	26	-5	13
Bayswater	11	1	2	8	11	29	-18	5
Rockingham	11	1	1	8	12	39	-27	4

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ner in the third minute of time added on at the end of the game at Perry Lake Stadium beating Ashfield/Bunbury 2-1. Bayswater looked doomed failing to score at home going down 0-1 to Inglewood United while bottom club, Rockingham, held Floreat 1-1 to gain a point.

What a debut for young Lion Michael Baird

By Paul Harley

Two first half goals by youngster Michael Baird on his XXXX League debut gave Lions victory in an eventful game. Knights pulled one back in the second half, but contributed to their own downfall through a red card and a missed penalty.

As early as the fourth minute, Knights' John Clark received a yellow card for a vicious two footed tackle on Darren Sime. This would later prove costly.

Lions went ahead with the first serious attack of the game in the seventh minute. A long ball out of defence by Jamie Lowndes put Royce Brownlie clear, but Knights keeper Jason Lucas was quickly out to the edge of the area to intercept. Unfortunately for him, his clearance cannoned off Brownlie, falling into the path of Baird, who calmly rolled the ball into the empty net from 20 yards.

Baird tried to return the favour six minutes later but his intended pass was just too strong for Brownlie to reach. Knights first threat on the Lions goal came in the 18th minute, with an intelligent pass from Peter McKendrick finding Trent Griffiths in space wide on the right. His cross to the back post found Richard Hilli, whose header back across goal looped over Lions' keeper Brett Dickens but struck the junction of post and bar.

Trent Scott picked up Knights' second yellow card three minutes later for a tackle from behind on Baird.

An enterprising run by Brownlie in the 24th minute from within his own half left four defenders in his wake. Bursting into the penalty area, he unleashed a fierce drive, but Lucas had narrowed the angle and spread himself well to save. Knights hit back five minutes later when Clark turned sharply past Chris Day to break free down the right, his cross finding Peter Hinks unmarked in the penalty area. However he took too long to line up his shot, giving Dickens time to close him down, and he emulated Lucas' earlier effort to deflect the ball over the bar for a fruitless corner.

Lions doubled their advantage in the 40th minute, Baird again on target, but in much more spectacular fashion. A Lions free kick was punched clear by Lucas, falling to Scott Robertson at the edge of the area. He lobbed the ball over the outrushing defence, finding Baird in acres of space as Knights appealed unsuccessfully for off-side, and he fired a perfectly struck right foot volley high into the net past the helpless Lucas from eight yards.

As half time approached, a Danny Britton 25 yard effort had Lucas diving low to his right to save. The last action of the half saw Hilli receive Knights third yellow card after a heavy challenge on Des Hughes.

Both goalkeepers were quickly called into action at the start of the second half. First, Robertson crossed perfectly for Brownlie in front of goal, his first time effort drawing a fine point blank reflex save from Lucas. The rebound caught the inrushing Baird by surprise, his hurried header sailing harmlessly over the top. A minute later, Hinks replied for Knights with a well struck drive from the corner of the penalty area which had Dickens scrambling across his goal to save low to his left.

Knights pulled a goal back out of nothing nine minutes into the half. A free kick from around the half way line was punted high into the Lions area, seemingly

more in hope than expectation. Dickens advanced from his line, but became tangled in the cluster of players waiting for the ball to drop. McKendrick took advantage, getting enough contact on the ball to send it looping over two desperate defenders attempts to clear off the line.

This inspired the Knights to greater efforts, and less than a minute later Hinks turned Day at the edge of the area to send a fierce left foot drive across the face of goal and narrowly wide of the far post. The hosts were looking rattled, as two minutes later Lowndes rash challenge on Hilli earned him Lions first yellow card of the day. The resulting free kick was a carbon copy of the earlier effort, and also seemed to have borne fruit, as a Knights player went down in the crush advancing on the ball and a penalty kick was awarded.

This saw tempers flare, and a scuffle broke out involving a dozen or more players. With order restored, the result was a yellow card for Britton, and a second for Clark which saw him dismissed and Knights reduced to ten men.

To rub salt into the wound, Dickens got down quickly to his left to save McKendrick's penalty, then recovered quickly to block his follow up attempt bravely at his feet. With that went any realistic hope Knights had of saving the game, as they were rarely seen thereafter as an attacking force.

It was left to Lucas to perform heroics for the remainder of the game, and prevent his former team from running up a far more comprehensive victory.

He did, however, almost tarnish his performance in the 16th minute of the half. An overhit pass out of midfield had him back pedaling as it looked to be dropping just under the crossbar. Misjudging the flight of the ball, it bounced off his chest and fell invitingly towards Baird, who must have been thinking of a debut hat-trick. Lucas reacted quickly, though, throwing himself at his feet to bravely block the shot.

McKendrick was yellow carded shortly after for dissent, before Lions missed a gilt edged chance to seal the points. Substitute Steve Bland, only on the field for two minutes, outpaced his marker down the right, crossing into the path of Lowndes only two yards in front of an open goal. Not only did he manage to fire his shot over the bar, but also over the covered enclosure and out of the ground. Lucas then did well to hold a Britton cross-cum-shot from the left.

A brief foray upfield by Knights saw Dickens save well at the feet of Scott Stenzel as he was sent clear by a clever pass from Griffiths. Play was soon back at the other end, and Lowndes amazingly was able to surpass his earlier attempt by missing from even closer range. Britton let fly with a left foot piledriver from 30 yards which Lucas could only beat away. The rebound flew high in the air, dropping almost on the goal line, and

bouncing up in front of goal. Lowndes reached it ahead of Lucas, but from literally inches away from an open goal, managed to direct his header against the bar.

It was now one way traffic as Lions attempted to make the match safe, but Lucas was defying all their efforts. With ten minutes remaining, Lowndes and Baird opened the Knights defence to set up Bland for a one-on-one with the keeper.

Lucas was again quickly off his line to spread himself and block the shot. The ball fell for fellow substitute Corey Hagell, but Lucas was already back on his feet and repeated the effort to save his attempt as well. Two minutes later, Britton again tried his luck from distance following a short free kick, holding his head in frustration as Lucas got down at full stretch to touch the ball around the post.

Two more minutes, and Lowndes had a chance to make up for his earlier misses, the ball falling to him in space eight yards out. His powerful shot was on target this time, but Lucas was again equal to it, a full length dive to his right to palm the ball away.

Five minutes from time, Clint Scott became the fifth Knights player to receive a yellow card, snapping too closely at the heels of an opponent.

Baird came close to completing his hat trick, following a surging run down the right. Cutting in towards goal, he tempted Lucas from his line, then attempted a clever chip over him as he went down. However the keeper again won out, getting a hand to the ball to divert it for a corner. And in the final minute, Bland picked up the game's final yellow card for a nasty over-the-ball challenge that left Knights substitute Adam Le Flay writhing on the ground.

In the end, three valuable points for Lions to keep them in second place, won more comfortably than the scoreline suggests. For Knights, not too many positives from this display other than the performance of their goalkeeper.

No doubt about the two class acts on show-a Lions star of the future in Michael Baird, and a Lions star of the past in Jason Lucas.

BRISBANE LIONS: B. Dickens, Lowndes, (Moon), Day, Jackson, Sime, Hughes, (Bland), Britton, Molenda, Robertson, Baird, Brownlie, (Hagell).



Two goal hero: Michael Baird

IPSWICH KNIGHTS: Lucas, Scott, Hinks, (Reece), Gacesa, Hallett, (B. McKendrick), Griffiths, T. Scott, P. McKendrick, Stenzel, (Le Flay), Clark, Hilli.

On Saturday night, Brisbane City maintained their grip on the XXXX League leadership with a 4-0 victory away to Wynnum.

Goals from Mark Battistin, Damien Waugh, Wayne Strange and Nathan Carlos were too much for the visitors, who were in fourth place prior to the weekend fixtures.

Rochdale Rovers kept the pressure on Lions for second place, their 2-0 home win over Toowoomba United ensuring the two are still only separated by goal difference. Rovers goals were scored by Matt Olley, from the penalty spot, and Brad Dittion.

The bottom two clubs, Bundaberg Waves and Mt. Gravatt, played out a 1-1 draw at Bundaberg, Jason Chapman scoring for the Waves and Mark Davidson on target for the visitors.

The other Sunday game saw Gold Coast City victors by 2-1 over Taringa Rovers, which sees them leapfrog Wynnum into fourth place. Locked at 1-1 at half time through goals by Adem Poric for the Coast and Craig Barnes for Rovers, Poric notched the winner in the second half.

XXXX LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
BRISBANE CITY	18	13	3	2	42	11	31	42
Brisbane Lions	17	9	5	3	31	16	15	32
Rochdale Rovers	18	10	2	6	33	23	10	32
Gold Coast City	18	9	3	6	29	18	11	30
Wynnum	17	8	4	5	28	24	4	28
Ipswich Knights	18	7	1	10	23	26	-3	22
Taringa Rovers	17	4	5	8	18	28	-10	17
Bundaberg Waves	18	3	6	9	12	29	-17	15
Toowoomba Raiders	17	3	5	9	16	31	-15	14
Mt Gravatt	18	3	4	11	21	47	-26	13

Bundaberg Waves 1 Mt Gravatt 1, Rochdale Rovers 2 Toowoomba Raiders 0, Brisbane Lions 2 Ipswich Knights 1, Gold Coast City 2 Taringa Rovers 1, Wynnum 0 Brisbane City 4.

DIVISION 1 NORTH:	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Uni of Qld	16	12	1	3	48	19	29	37
Pine Rivers Utd	16	10	2	4	33	21	12	32
Mitchelton	16	10	1	5	42	25	17	31
North Star	16	9	2	5	44	25	19	29
The Gap	16	8	1	7	36	28	8	25
North Pine	16	7	2	7	29	29	0	23
Newmarket	16	4	7	5	29	29	0	19
Albany Creek	16	1	4	11	20	55	-35	7
Grange Thistle	16	0	2	14	9	59	-50	2

Albany Creek 3 Mitchelton 5, Pine Rivers Utd 2 North Star 2, Grange Thistle 0 The Gap 5, Uni of Qld 1 North Pine 1, Newmarket Bye

DIVISION 1 SOUTH:	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Eastern Suburbs	16	13	3	0	56	15	41	39
Souths United	16	7	6	3	43	14	29	24
Rocklea United	16	8	2	6	39	26	13	26
Olympic United	16	8	1	7	43	28	15	25
Acacia Ridge	16	7	4	5	33	27	6	22
Capalaba	16	7	2	7	27	38	-11	20
Slacks Creek	16	5	3	8	25	34	-9	18
Redlands United	16	5	1	9	27	35	-9	13
Beenleigh	16	1	0	15	16	91	-75	3

Rocklea United 1 Capalaba 3, Acacia Ridge 1 Olympic United 0, Redlands United 1 Eastern Suburbs 2, South United 8 Beenleigh 0, Slacks Creek Bye.

Six left to battle it out for top four spots in ACT

Canberra Olympic consolidated themselves as a real threat to those in the Top 4 when they defeated Monaro. Their win, combined with Tuggeranong United's 1-0 defeat of Weston Creek leaves only 6 teams left to compete for the prized positions in the Top 4 come the end of the season.

Despite playing 60 minutes with only 10 men, Canberra Deakin doused Burns Club 1-0 at Wanniassa Oval on Sunday writes Nathan Long.

Deakin lost Andrew Rakic in the 30th minute after he elbowed Burns' Chris Grande flush under his left eye. Burns Club coach Steve Bryant called it 'diabolical', while his Deakin counterpart, Zoran Glavinic was resigned to losing Rakic for next week's game against Monaro.

"It was a silly thing to do. He (Rakic) let the other players down and he let the club down," he said.

In the first 20 minutes Deakin had three genuine chances, but poor finishing let them down. In the 5th minute, Burns keeper Jim Carr made a great save from a close range shot by Luka Ujdr. Ten minutes later, Paul Ivanic intercepted a pass at halfway and got inside the penalty area, but his poor shot was safely taken by Carr. One minute later, Ujdr shot and hit the near post. The ball rebounded to Tommy Bajurin, but he put it over the cross bar. Three minutes later Burns had a chance, but Robert McLeod's shot was well saved by Jovan Naumovski.

Two minutes into the second half Deakin's Nic Purdue received a ball on the edge of the penalty area, and drilled a shot at the top left-hand corner.

Carr managed to get to it for a great save.

Burns club controlled the first 30 minutes of the second half, making enough half chances to justify a goal. Their downfall was mis-timed crossing and when getting the ball, their first touch was usually poor.

At one stage, Daniel Byrne got behind the defence to get a ball chipped over the top. With only Naumovski to beat, Byrne's first touch was bad, he failed to control the ball and the Deakin defence managed to recover before Byrne could take a shot.

The game was essentially a dueling goalies contest, with both having great games. In the second half Naumovski made some crucial saves to ensure Deakin were not scored upon. Burns' Carr was even better, the fact that he didn't record a clean sheet doesn't diminish from his fantastic performance.

The Deakin goal came in the 76th minute. After a ball went across the face of goal, substitute Deakin striker Tony Lemizina gathered the ball on the left side of goal. He then laid the ball back for Purdue to power it home from 25 metres out for the 1-0 lead. The injection of Lemizina in the 70th minute was crucial. He provided some much-needed attacking power which enabled Deakin to come home strong.

Glavinic thought his side had the better chances, and should have converted one of them in the first 20 minutes. However, he praised the effort of the Burns side and predicted forthcoming victories for the young side.

"They work very hard, and they will get some of these other teams, believe me," he said.

Bryant also believed his team had the better chances, which they probably did. He also bemoaned the sudden drought in goal scoring.

"I think we should have won. We had the better chances and, well, it's the big one that got away," he said.

Gungahlin Juventus extended their lead at the top of the Premier League table after a 2-1 win over the UCU Pumas at the University grounds. Yet they had to fight for it all the way and had Steve Howie been able to direct his header goalwards with only

minutes left the points could have been shared.

George Cattanach grabbed both goals for Juventus, one in each half whilst Andy Wilson was on the end of a well-worked set piece to draw the scores level just after the break.

At Majura Oval, Belconnen United moved back into second place on the table after a resounding 6-0 hammering of the Capital City Suns. The result puts the Suns 3 full games out of the Top 4 and will make it hard for last year's minor premiers to make the finals.

Each of Marko Perinovic, Daniel Camara and Craig Unwin netted twice for Belconnen.

A man-of-the-match performance by Weston Creek Royals keeper Michael Thomsen saw his team just lose 1-0 to a recently struggling Tuggeranong United at Woden Park.

The only goal of the game came from a Robbie Schroder left foot strike, whilst at the other end Tony Halton saw a great chance when one-on-one but the Tuggeranong keeper Michael Cerne saved well.

Riverside Stadium saw a newly emerging Canberra Olympic keep up their run towards the Finals when they defeated previously second-placed Monaro 2-1.

Cosmos player Ilija Prenzioski, on debut, scored the first goal of the game for Monaro, but a double by Alex Castro of Olympic, the first before half-time and the winner in the final ten minutes

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
Gungahlin Juventus	12	10	2	0	3	38	10	34
Belconnen United	12	8	1	3	1	43	14	26
Monaro	11	8	0	3	0	33	18	24
Canberra Deakin	12	7	1	4	1	27	20	23
Canberra Olympic	12	5	3	4	3	21	24	21
Tuggeranong Utd	12	6	1	5	1	26	26	20
Capital City Suns	11	4	1	5	1	22	31	14
UCU Pumas	10	2	0	8	0	11	23	6
Burns	11	2	0	9	0	14	31	6
Weston Creek Royals	11	0	1	10	1	8	46	2

PREMIER LEAGUE 1ST GRADE: Weston Creek Royals 0
Tuggeranong United 1, Burns FC 0 Canberra Deakin 1,
Monaro 1 Canberra Olympic 2, Belconnen United 6 Capital
City Suns 0, UCU Pumas 1 Gungahlin Juventus 2.

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
Belconnen United	12	11	1	0	1	42	8	35
Canberra Deakin	12	8	0	4	0	26	22	24
Monaro	11	6	1	4	1	15	13	20
UCU Pumas	11	5	2	4	1	20	18	18
Capital City Suns	11	5	1	5	1	21	17	17
Tuggeranong	12	4	3	5	2	15	15	17
Gungahlin Juventus	12	4	2	6	2	18	22	16
Weston Creek Royals	11	3	3	5	3	14	23	15
Canberra Olympic	12	3	1	7	1	11	19	11
Burns	11	0	2	9	2	10	35	4

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 23'S: Weston Creek Royals 1
Tuggeranong United 4, Burns FC 1 Canberra Deakin 2,
Monaro 1 Canberra Olympic 0, Belconnen United 4
Capital City Suns 2, UCU Pumas 3 Gungahlin Juventus 2.

PREMIER LEAGUE UNDER 19'S: Weston Creek Royals 0
Tuggeranong United 4, Burns FC 0 Canberra Deakin 4,
Monaro 3 Canberra Olympic 0, Belconnen United 4
Capital City Suns 1, UCU Pumas 2 Gungahlin Juventus 0.

High scoring round in NNSW

NBN SOCCER LEAGUE

1ST GRADE

Maitland 3 South Cardiff 2
M Cook, M Lorenz, G Page R Appleby, B Goff

Highfields Azzurri 0 Broadmeadow Magic 3
K Helmers, L Maguire (2)

Weston Workers 0 Belmont Swansea 3
S Maguire (3)

Edgeworth Eagles 0 Hamilton Olympic 2
D. West, R Mooney

Adamstown Rosebud 10 Toronto Awaba 0
T Majourovski (4), D Robinson (2)

C Humphrys, D Zane, D Hill, T Wilkinson

Cessnock Hornets 9 Wallsend Red Devils 0
C Beckett (2), J Kavanagh (2)

D Allen, N Smith (2), T Bauer (2)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
EDGEWORTH EAGLES	17	12	4	1	55	15	40	40
HAMILTON OLYMPIC	17	12	2	3	50	15	35	38
BROADMEADOW MAGIC	17	10	2	5	37	28	9	32
CESSNOCK HORNETS	17	8	4	5	44	27	17	28
ADAMSTOWN ROSE.	17	8	2	7	44	30	14	26
SOUTH CARDIFF	17	7	5	5	41	37	4	26
MAITLAND MAGPIES	16	8	2	6	23	35	-12	26
BELMONT SWANSEA	17	6	6	5	30	28	2	24
HIGHFIELDS AZZURRI	17	5	5	7	33	31	2	20
TORONTO AWABA	17	3	4	10	14	50	-36	13
WESTON BEARS	17	1	3	13	14	39	-25	6
WALLSEND RED DEVILS	16	1	1	14	14	64	-50	4

RES GRADE

Maitland 0 South Cardiff 3
Highfields Azzurri 2 Broadmeadow Magic 1
Weston Workers 5 Belmont Swansea 3
Edgeworth Eagles 1 Hamilton Olympic 2

Adamstown Rosebud 5 Toronto Awaba 1
Cessnock Hornets 3 Wallsend Red Devils 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
HAMILTON OLYMPIC	17	12	2	3	37	14	23	38
SOUTH CARDIFF	17	11	4	2	42	19	23	37
EDGEWORTH EAGLES	17	11	2	4	47	20	27	35
CESSNOCK HORNETS	17	9	4	4	29	21	8	31
ADAMSTOWN ROSE.	17	8	3	6	34	22	12	27
BROADMEADOW MAGIC	17	8	1	8	30	36	-6	25
HIGHFIELDS AZZURRI	17	6	3	8	25	28	-3	21
BELMONT SWANSEA	17	5	2	10	24	32	-8	17
MAITLAND MAGPIES	16	4	5	7	21	30	-9	17
TORONTO AWABA	17	5	2	10	18	43	-25	17
WESTON BEARS	17	4	4	9	25	31	-6	16
WALLSEND RED DEVILS	16	1	2	13	10	46	-36	5

YOUTH GRADE

Maitland 2 South Cardiff 1
Highfields Azzurri 3 Broadmeadow Magic 1
Weston Workers 4 Belmont Swansea 1
Edgeworth Eagles 1 Hamilton Olympic 3
Adamstown Rosebud 1 Toronto Awaba 1
Cessnock Hornets 10 Wallsend Red Devils 1

2HD SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS

1ST GRADE

Phoenix Rangers 0 Newcastle University 6
R Beveridge, S Colbert, I Skaarstad G Cerdia (2), M Saad
Mayfield United 2 Singleton Strikers 2
Medowie 1 Belmont Tingira 1
Adamstown Rosebud 1 Wallsend Red Devils 1

Singleton Strikers 2 A Castledine (2)
Medowie 1 M Orton, N Humble, M Sloane (2), B Searle
Mayfield United 2 J Sparke (2)
Weston Workers 6 Dudley / Redhead 1

RESERVE GRADE

Phoenix Rangers 2 Newcastle University

Metro Claremont's Braveheart Coach

Andy Baxter coaches Metro Claremont in the Tasmanian West Point League. IS's Aidan Ormond got the lowdown on Soccer Apple Isle style and his sudden foray into coaching...



The mighty Metro Claremont with coach Andy Baxter (top extreme right).

First Andy, could you describe the structure of soccer in Tasmania in terms of its leagues and the game in general. What is the future like for the game in the Apple Isle?

The main leagues in Tasmania are split into North and South Conference Leagues. This only happened this season and replaces the old set up of the State League. Metro is a newcomer to the Southern Conference League.

The next level below the Conference League is the Southern Premier League. Metro also have a team in this competition and is where the first team played last season.

As for the future of the game in Tasmania, well I feel the skill level is there for healthy competition. Going by the youth structure that I have worked with, I know that there will be an abundance of talent in the years ahead.

As far as refereeing is concerned, the long-term fix is in place with having young kids being brought through the ranks. Being a coach just now though, I would like to see more high level referee/assistant referees in place to take charge of the likes of Conference league matches.

I have seen a huge improvement in the level of refereeing as the season has progressed, and I hope the trend continues.

Quality players like Longo and Clarkson are Tasmanian products. Do you see any more NSL stars on the horizon down there?

I have heard many reports on the likes of Longo and Clarkson and I know they are held in very high regard. Clarkson has a close link to Metro and I believe he has spent time coaching the youths at the club. I see a lot of talent here and I think it would pay for scouts from main land clubs to make a visit to see what's on show.

Our own club has brought out three guys who played professional soccer in Scotland and they have not only shone here, but have brought on the skills of the guys playing beside them.

Pettit's striking ability is the highest quality I have seen and the midfield ability of Irving and Love is awesome. These guys are still young enough to make a strong impact at a higher level. There are many high quality players who are young enough from other clubs in the State such as Ben Harbinson from South Hobart and Jim Brown from Glenorchy Knights.

An oft-asked question is 'when will there be an NSL side from Tassie?'

Care to comment and do you think a Tassie side could play in the NYL?

I have no doubt that the quality of player is here, but the financial implications would be a restriction. I know the traveling involved and the actual money involved to sustain a competitive team would be incredible and I just don't think it would bring in enough revenue to make it reality.

You have to ask why Tasmania does not have an "Aussie Rules", team playing at a national level and that is the sport that brings in the biggest crowds.

When you look at different players in the state, it is exiting to imagine bringing them together to play in the one select team. I know the coaches vote on a "Tassie Select", team at the end of the season, but it would be nice to actually bring them together and play a team from the main land.

I know this is has been branded about, but I sincerely hope it becomes reality.

Describe the media coverage of Tassie soccer and soccer in general in the Apple Isle?

Coming from a country like Scotland, I am used to Soccer being the sport with the biggest write-ups. I know the soccer writer in Tasmania, Walter Pless, quite well and I know he puts in a lot of effort to get it recognised, but it would be nice to get more coverage.

It really pleases me however that Soccer in Tasmania is getting National recognition from *Inside Soccer* and I know my view is shared throughout all the major clubs in the Tasmania.

The amount of people playing soccer especially young kids really surprised me and it is a bit disappointing not to have more of a say.

What is the perception like of the game in the media and from the public's point of view?

The media are pretty fair in what they say. I can imagine it would be frustrating for reporters wanting to write a lot about the sport and being restricted by space, but I think what is said is pretty fare. From what I have seen the media certainly doesn't hide from making a strong or controversial point.

Being a coach myself, my team has had both good and bad write-ups. You have got to either let it get to you or take it on the chin and get on with doing your job.

Metro has went to great lengths to make it a family day out and the response has been good from the public. We have had positive feedback and every home game the crowds seem to be bigger. We

have introduced things like complimentary tickets for family members, introducing ball boys and girls, mascots and a match program. This has helped promote the image throughout the community and given us a strong feeling of support from the public and soccer as a whole.

Your side is Metro Claremont. Tell me how the side is progressing, what the club set-up is like and how can you catch leaders Hobart Olympic?

As I said earlier, Metro is a newcomer to the Southern Conference League. We are currently sitting fifth in the table although have played one game more than the rest of the teams. We are also in the semi final of the StateWide Vase having scored 17 goals in the competition and conceded none.

The feeling within the team is high just now and the thing that keeps us going is the morale and self-belief. Throughout the club we have a great atmosphere and we have around 20 teams from as young as U-7s. The committee is very supportive and let me get on with having sole control of on-field matters.

Myself and the other Scottish players have gone to great lengths to improve the professional image of the team and club as a whole. This has been recognised by all the teams that visit us and is always positively commented on by the players involved and the opposing teams.

People thought that we would really struggle and I know our pre-season cup form didn't help change this factor. I would like to think that our form up to now has changed many peoples point of view. I always tell the players to focus on catching teams ahead of us and don't think about dropping in position.

I have a lot of respect for all the other coaches, but as long as Metro concentrate on the game ahead and not too far into the future we can compete with any other team. I said at the start of the season that with only having nine teams in the league, it would be consistency that would win it.

Olympic to their credit have been the most consistent up to now and it is up to the rest of us to catch them. We are determined to give ourselves a bit of respectability in this our first season up with the "Big Guns".

What is your background? Why did you choose Tasmania and do you ambitions to work on the mainland or beyond?

I emigrated from Scotland in January this year. I am from East Kilbride, just outside Glasgow and I am married to a Tasmanian girl, Claire. I do plan to stay in Tasmania for the foreseeable future although if I am offered the Glasgow Rangers job, I may be tempted to go back to Glasgow!

I have played as a goalkeeper since I was nine and have always enjoyed it. I played for teams like Queens Park, Clydebank as a youth and spent about six months playing senior soccer with Greenock Morton. I never signed professional though as a youth which was always a big ambition.

I played a season in Southern Ireland during a spell working out there which again was great fun. I then didn't play for about four years but went to Ibrox Stadium every week to watch Glasgow Rangers. I still have my season ticket running and have started the Tasmanian Rangers Supporters Club.

I decided to sign for Metro as I knew one of the committee members pretty well before January and it wasn't long before I realised the atmosphere at the club would help me settle in. In 20 years I have never been cautioned by a referee or injured, but three weeks after arriving I had a serious injury to my ankle which isn't looking to good to play in the future.

I still trained pretty hard on other exercises, after it happened as I like to keep fit, but the ankle just doesn't want to heal.

We had a pretty poor start to the campaign and the club and coach parted company. I was then approached to take on the team which I gladly accepted. I did a few Scottish Football Association coaching courses last year, which have proved very valuable in my new adventure.

As for ambitions, I would just like to bring some silverware back to Metro and get some statewide recognition, not just for me but for everybody at the club. There are so many people behind the scenes that deserve something. I would just love to be there when it happens.

Is there much interest in the NSL in Tasmania and what are your views on the NSL?

There is a lot of interest, and I know that the World Club Tournament did wonders for Australian Soccer world wide. I was still in Scotland and every game was shown live. Being from Glasgow, there are three Australian National players that play in the Glasgow derby, so it certainly produces players.

The Rangers Chairman of course has just bought a huge share in Northern Spirit, which has given me an interest in it. My views on the NSL, well I think the standard is pretty good and I certainly think they should play more teams from further afield. It would only bring out the best in individuals and would publicise the game to the youths throughout the country.

There are players playing in the NSL that certainly could make their mark in Europe. Getting more youth involvement and media coverage has to be the long-term ambition for the decision makers within the Australian Soccer Federation.

The recent NSL Grand Final has been described as the greatest GF of all time. What are your thoughts on it and the possible Implications for Australian soccer.

The grand final last weekend was spectacular. It was a great advert for Soccer and I know of people who don't have a great feeling about soccer but were glued to their TV sets. Games like that can only do wonders, especially for kids, and that is who it has got to be aimed at.

I think most kids who follow Soccer here, like Manchester United or Liverpool (even the occasional Rangers fan). It would be nice though to have clubs here followed more and produce the crowds. This then produces revenue to bring players to Australia instead of letting talent go.

I feel that like in America or Australia, maybe Soccer isn't the biggest sport because it is relatively low scoring as opposed to Basketball or Aussie Rules.

A game like that though certainly beats that argument.

***All the latest on the Tasmanian league is on the facing page.**

New leader in Tassie as Olympic loses

By Walter Pless

Hobart Olympic relinquished their lead in the Tasmanian Wrest Point League when they lost 2-1 away to reigning champions University at Olinda Grove on Saturday.

Raymond Benson made the most of a poor headed back-pass by University's Mark Rapley to fire the visitors into a 3rd-minute lead, but teenage striker Corey Smith equalised for the students on the half-hour.

Michael MacDonald netted the winner ten minutes from the end with a fierce shot against the powerful gale blowing atop Mount Nelson.

"I reckon the ball was in play for only twenty minutes," said University's joint-coach, Jim Kerr. "I think I ran up and down the steep bank 73 times to fetch the ball."

The result dropped Olympic from first to third on 18 points, while University remained fourth with 17 points.

New Town Eagles and the Glenorchy Knights, who both won 2-0 on the weekend, share top spot with 19 points, but Eagles' superior goal-difference keeps their beaks in front.

Eagles produced an unconvincing 2-0 win at home at Clare Street on Saturday against bottom-side South Hobart, while the Knights beat seventh-placed Hobart Zebras by the same score-line at KGV Soccer Park on Friday night.

South Hobart kept Eagles scoreless in the opening half of a game marred by the strong winds, although Eagles were clearly the better side and created far more scoring chances than their opponents.

Darren Frost had Eagles' first chance in the 7th minute, but he shot wide, while team-mate David Stoddart did the same from Colin Shepherd's pass in the 10th minute.

In the 28th minute, Frost set up Stoddart, but the result was the same, with South Hobart goalkeeper Ben Essex watching the ball sail wide against the powerful wind.

A superb pass from midfield by the excellent Stoddart found Adam Jones racing at goal down the left, but the wing-back shot over the crossbar from 20 metres. Stoddart's centre from the right in the 37th minute was met by the diving Julian Proud, but he got too far under the ball and his header looped over the crossbar.

Stoddart, who was dominating the midfield, again brought Jones into the action two minutes before the interval, his shot this time finding the side-netting.

South's best chance of the half fell to

Ben Harbinson, who raced down the right and into the penalty area before being dispossessed near goal by an anxious Eagles defence, with team-mate Bernhard Klasen looking on and waiting in vain for Harbinson's pass.

The second half was not a minute old when Proud's snap-shot from just outside the penalty area forced Essex to produce a fine save while at full stretch.

In the 56th minute, Shepherd sent a glancing header from Mark De Vries's left-wing cross just wide of Essex's left-hand post as Eagles, with the wind at their backs, increased the pressure.

South then produced a mini-revival as Ben Harbinson forced a corner off Eagles skipper Damien Bones. Bernhard Klasen's corner proved very dangerous in the swirling wind and Eagles goalkeeper Sam Kruijver did well to turn it on to the far post, after which the ball was scrambled out for a corner from the other side. Klasen took this one, too, and Bones had to clear off the line as Eagles found themselves suddenly on the back foot.

Jones chipped just wide of Essex's goal on the hour and, a minute later, Eagles brought on 21-year-old striker and prolific scorer Adrian Venettacci, signed in mid-week from Hobart Olympic. The youngster had a quiet senior debut, but he had scored twice in the reserves' 3-0 win over South Hobart in his first game for the club.

In the 64th minute, Shepherd worked his way into the South Hobart penalty area and, surrounded by three defenders, went down. Referee Graeme Vines, who will be a Tasmanian representative referee at the forthcoming under-15 and under-16 National Talent Identification Series in Sydney next month, pointed to the penalty spot, from where Stoddart duly scored, with a crisp shot against the back stanchion to Essex's left, to give Eagles the lead.

Ten minutes later, Harbinson turned sharply and beat a defender to get in his shot, but the ball flew high over the bar.

With 11 minutes remaining, Eagles coach George Krambousanos replaced Frost with Rodney Bones and the midfielder scored with his first touch a minute later, ramming home Jones's cross from the left.

In the final minute, Essex was forced to turn Stoddart's effort against a post, Jones driving the rebound high and wide of the goal.

It was not an impressive performance, but the three points took Eagles to the top of the ladder.

"It was not a day for soccer and the wind was playing its own game," said a

philosophical Eagles coach George Krambousanos. "But, three points are three points."

The Knights did just enough to win against the Zebras, who had a "goal" disallowed early in the match for pushing. The Zebras had experienced midfielder Sergio Pace sent off ten minutes before half-time for a foul on former team-mate Josh Fielding.

After a goalless opening half, striker Brendan Lakoseljac put the Knights ahead in the 64th minute and defender Andrew Brown made it 2-0 eight minutes from the end.

One of the referee's assistants in this match was a crewman from the visiting American nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C Stennis. Metro-Claremont had played three games during the week against teams from the carrier.

"I thought we played all right," said Knights coach Ken Morton. "It's difficult when teams go down to ten men because they can sit people behind the ball."

"When Ben Crosswell went on, he turned the game around. He started getting up and down the flanks, which is what we needed. I wouldn't say it was a comfortable win, but it was a win we needed."

Clarence United beat the visiting Kingborough Lions United 2-0 at Wentworth Park on Sunday to move up a place from second last to seventh place.

The Eastern Shore side is now four points clear of bottom-side South Hobart and level on 7 points with the sixth-ranked Lions.

The Lions huffed and puffed but could not blow the home side's defence down and they showed again their complete inadequacy in front of goal. They have scored a mere four goals in eight league outings.

Striker Tim Dale had a nightmare, missing at least three clear-cut chances from close range. When he finally unleashed a full-blooded drive late in the match, the ball rattled the crossbar.

Stuart Hope was unpassable in the Clarence goal, holding everything thrown at him and also having a stroke of luck in the first half when he turned an effort by Dale against the woodwork.

Clarence took the lead against the run of play in the 36th minute when David Robb turned Adrian Mann's corner into the net with a great shot on the turn.

Clarence should have increased its lead on the stroke of half-time when Tom McGinn, who had earlier been unlucky not to win a penalty and earned a yellow card

instead for alleged diving, did win a spot-kick. But, Kingborough goalkeeper Kristan Beardwood produced an excellent save.

Kingborough brought on Daniel Palmer for the second half and he turned a defender inside out in the opening minutes and laid on a perfect pass for Dale, who fired over from close range.

Instead of using Palmer's speed and trickery, Kingborough chose other avenues towards goal, without success.

McGinn and Robb almost embarrassed Kingborough further with good shots at goal in counter-attacks, but the home team was finally rewarded on the hour for its courage when Cameron Wells netted to make it 2-0.

Kingborough continued its frantic hunt for goals until the end, but even if it could have played until next weekend, it just was not going to score.

University earned a semi-final berth in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy State-wide competition with a 2-1 extra-time win over Launceston City at Olinda Grove on the Queen's Birthday Monday.

Roger Mies headed Launceston City into the lead in the 10th minute from David Hill's corner, but Craig Pitt equalised in the 39th minute with a shot that Warren Dent got his fingertips to but could not keep out. Michael MacDonald grabbed the winner a minute from the end of the first period of extra-time after a long ball forward by Mark Rapley and a headed flick-on by Corey Smith.

The semi-final draw is University versus Kingborough Lions United and New Town Eagles versus the Glenorchy Knights.

WREST POINT LEAGUE

New Town Eagles 2
(D. Stoddart R. Bones)
South Hobart 0

University 2
Hobart Olympic 1

Glenorchy Knights 2
(B. Lakoseljac A. Brown)
Hobart Zebras 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	8	6	1	1	35	12	19
Glenorchy Knights	8	6	1	1	29	8	19
Hobart Olympic	8	6	0	2	15	10	18
University	8	5	2	1	17	12	17
Metro Claremont	8	3	0	5	18	29	9
Kingborough Lions	7	2	1	4	4	9	7
Hobart Zebras	8	1	2	5	13	25	5
Clarence United	7	1	1	5	15	32	4
South Hobart	8	1	0	7	10	19	3

Lead trimmed in NZ

By Jeremy Ruane

Ansett National Club Championship leaders University-Mt. Wellington saw their lead trimmed to four points by Napier City Rovers and Manawatu on June 18, following a low-scoring twelfth round of action in New Zealand's leading competition for soccer clubs.

Uni-Mount were held to a 1-1 draw at Dunedin Technical, John Gregg's 47th minute strike for the home side equalising Travis Medhurst's first half opener for the league leaders at the New Caledonian Ground in the Edinburgh of the South.

This result allowed both Napier City Rovers and Manawatu to close to within four points of the lead, as both provincial combinations recorded victories over

Central Auckland opposition.

A twelfth minute goal from Napier's Ricky Ravenhill was sufficient to see off Central United at Park Island, this being the sixth consecutive defeat for the reigning National Club Champions.

Meanwhile, Manawatu, with the biggest winning margin of the day, scored a goal in each half in defeating bottom-of-the-table Metro 2-0 at Albie Turner Field. Isaac Duker and Shane Cunliffe - an exquisite curled effort - were the marks-men for the victors, who have edged past Napier in second place by virtue of having scored more goals than their rivals.

Nelson Suburbs also had the chance to close to within four points of the lead, but were thwarted in this regard by Miramar Rangers. Duncan Oughton opened the scoring for the Wellingtonians, but Brent McNabb's 56th minute penalty

raised Suburbs' hopes, only for Curtis Bernard to extinguish them three minutes from time with a late winner for Rangers, which propels them past Nelson into fourth spot on the table.

The day's other encounter, between Waitakere City and Christchurch City, ended in a 1-1 draw at Fred Taylor Park. Darren Fellowes netted for the home side in the first half, but Paul Stanley put Christchurch on level terms in the 56th minute, a point which lifts the Cantabrians off the bottom of the ladder.

The feature match in round thirteen action pits first against third, with University-Mt. Wellington hosting Napier City Rovers at Bill McKinlay Park.

There is also the first of three Auckland derbies taking

place on successive Friday nights, as Metro entertain near-neighbours Central United at Albie Turner Field.

Meanwhile, Manawatu entertain Waitakere City, Miramar Rangers host Dunedin Technical, and Nelson Suburbs travel to Christchurch City in an all-South Island affair.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	BP Pts
Uni-Mount	12	7	3	2	22	15	+7	2 26
Manawatu	12	6	3	3	24	16	+8	1 22
Napier C.R.	12	6	1	5	21	13	+8	3 22
Miramar R.	12	5	4	3	24	21	+3	1 20
Nelson S.	12	5	3	4	21	23	-2	1 19
Waitakere	12	5	2	5	19	18	+1	0 17
Dunedin T.	12	4	2	6	18	20	-2	1 15
Central U.	12	4	1	7	18	21	-3	1 14
Christchurch	12	3	3	6	17	26	-9	1 13
Metro	12	3	2	7	13	25	-12	1 12

*BP = Bonus points

Congratulations Wolves' Scott Chipperfield



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of the Year**



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